

DIGITAL EDITION

GUNSLINGER GIRL

STORY & ART BY
YU AIDA

Vol. 7





SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

GUNSLINGER GIRL

VOLUME 7

story and art by YU AIDA

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GUNSLINGER GIRL VOLUME 7

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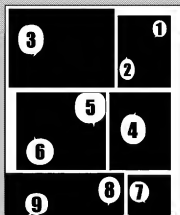
Ebook Edition: July 2017

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but it's the way manga is read.



C H A R A C T E R S

登場人物紹介



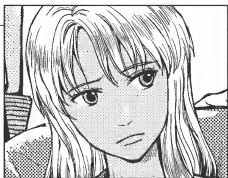
PETRUSHKA

The first of the new, second generation cyborgs. In her life before the Agency, she was a promising young ballerina with the Bolshoi Ballet. However, osteosarcoma in her leg ended her career, and she attempted suicide. Her handler is Alessandro.



ALESSANDRO

A new handler transferred from the Agency's Public Safety division over to Section 2. Prior to his transfer, his missions centered around infiltrating Padania terrorist groups.



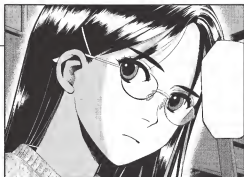
TRIELA

Smart and responsible, she is an "older sister" figure for the other cyborgs. Her handler is Hilshire.



HILSHIRE

German. Former detective with Europol. He tries very hard to be kind to Triela, but has difficulty figuring out what kind of distance there should be in their relationship.



CLAES

Triela's roommate. When her handler Raballo was killed, she became the Agency's "guinea pig" cyborg. All cyborg developments are first tested on her.



HENRIETTA

The only survivor of a slaughtered family of six. Thanks to her "conditioning" when she was converted into a cyborg, she is blindly in love with her handler, Jose.



JOSE

Ex-military. Generally, he is very kind to Henrietta, but he is beginning to find himself disturbed at how much he unconsciously imposes his late sister's image onto her.



RICO

Former quadriplegic. Innocent and cheerful, even the most common everyday things bring her much joy. Her handler is Jean.



JEAN

Jose's older brother. Very serious-minded and business-like. He is the cyborg handlers' leader and field commander for Section 2 operations.

ANGELICA

The first prototype cyborg. She was the first to start displaying side effects to the cyborg conversion process, and has an acute dependency on the "drug" used. Her handler is Marco.



MARCO

Ex-military special forces. When he was discharged due to an injury, he took up a job with the Agency. He has trouble dealing with feelings of helplessness and frustration as he watches Angelica's condition deteriorate day by day.



ROBERTA GUELLFI

The Roman prosecutor newly assigned to the "Croce Incident" case. Padania terrorists have announced their intention to assassinate her.



RACHELLE BELLEUT

Europol mortician. Along with Hilshire, she investigated a child slavery ring in Amsterdam, and was killed in the process.



BELISARIO

Agency technician. He is in charge of the cyborg "conditioning" process.



PRISCILLA

Section 2 agent. Specializes in intel and data analysis.



OLGA

Section 2 agent. Russian.



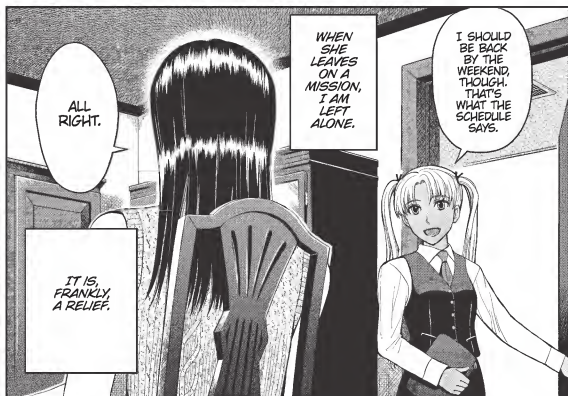
LORENZO

Section 2 Chief. Formerly of the Ministry of State.





RIGHT,
THEN.
I'M
GOING
NOW.



ALL
RIGHT.

IT IS,
FRANKLY
A RELIEF.

WHEN
SHE
LEAVES
ON A
MISSION,
I AM
LEFT
ALONE.

I SHOULD
BE BACK
BY THE
WEEKEND,
THOUGH.
THAT'S
WHAT THE
SCHEDULE
SAYS.



SHE'S
GETTING THAT
ROOM ON THE
THIRD FLOOR.
THE ONE
WHERE YOU'VE
BEEN KEEPING
ALL YOUR
PAINTINGS.

NOT
AT
ALL.

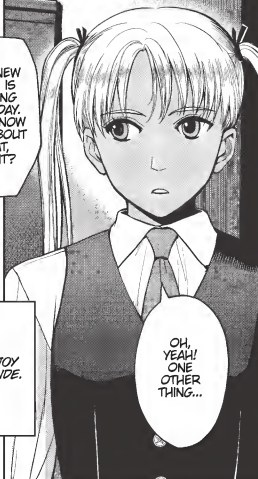
WOULD
YOU MIND
MOVING
THEM TO
ANOTHER
ROOM?



YES.

THE NEW
GIRL IS
MOVING
IN TODAY.
YOU KNOW
ALL ABOUT
THAT,
RIGHT?

*I ENJOY
SOLITUDE.*

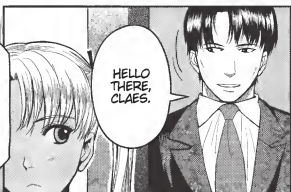


OH,
YEAH!
ONE
OTHER
THING...



IS THERE
ANYTHING
YOU NEED?
WE WILL
BE IN
ROME.

NO,
I'M FINE.
YOU
NEEDN'T
WORRY
ABOUT
GETTING
ME
ANYTHING.



HELLO
THERE,
CLAES.

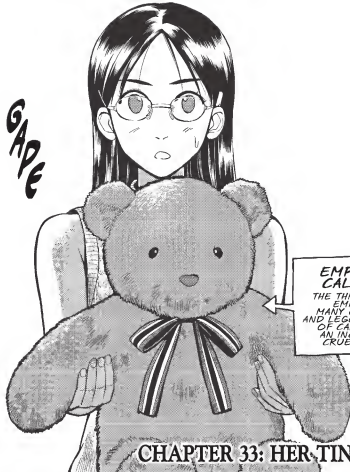


QUITE
WELL,
SIGNORE
HILSHIRE.
THANK
YOU.

HOW
HAVE
YOU
BEEN
DOING?



GAPE



EMPEROR CALIGULA
THE THIRD ROMAN
EMPEROR.
MANY HISTORIES
AND LEGENDS SPEAK
OF CALIGULA AS
AN INCREDIBLY
CRUEL RULER.

CHAPTER 33: HER TINY GARDEN

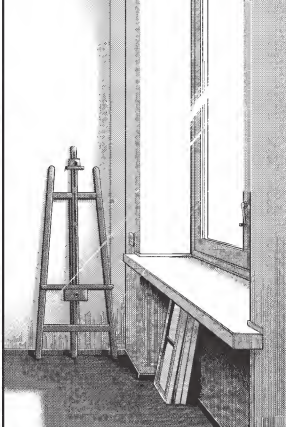
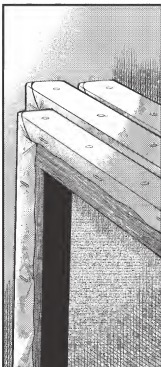
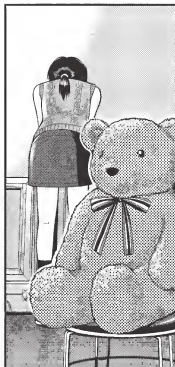


NOW
I'M
ALONE
AGAIN.

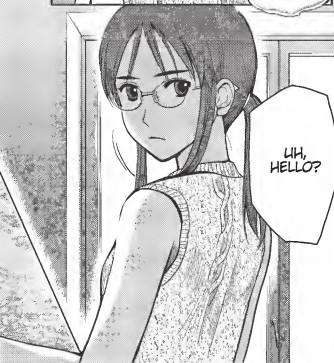


WELL,
TO BE
HONEST...

I CANNOT
SAY I'M
NOT
ENVIIOUS
OF HER
FOR
HAVING A
PARTNER.



MAYBE
I SHOULD
JUST
THROW
THEM
AWAY...

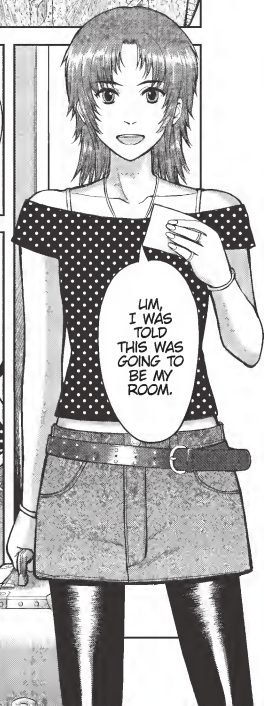
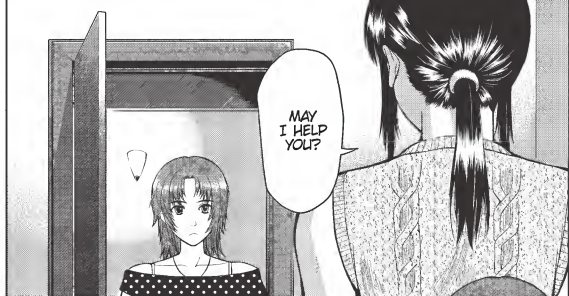


UH,
HELLO?

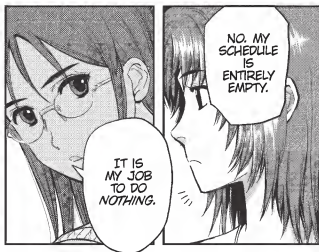


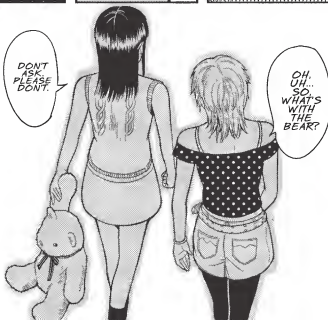
I GUESS
NOT
EVERYTHING
WILL
REMAIN
AS I'D
LIKE IT
TO BE.

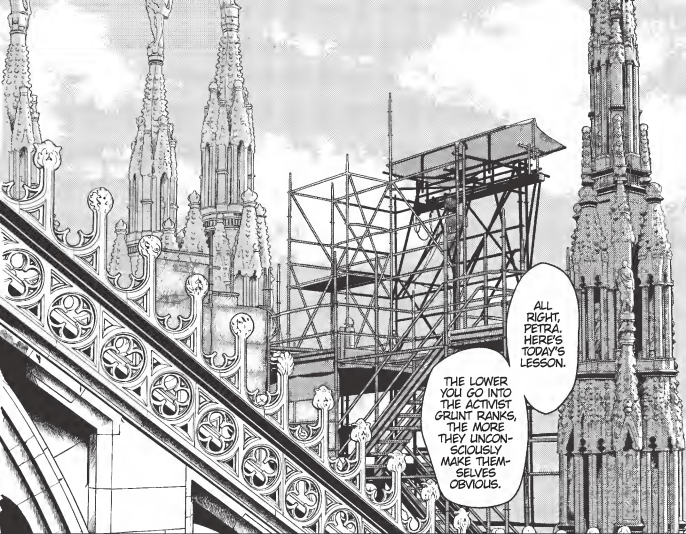
SO,
NOW
WE ARE
GETTING
KICKED
OUT OF
HERE,
TOO...





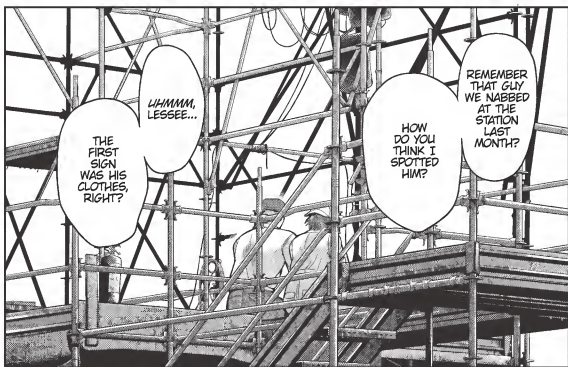






ALL
RIGHT,
PETRA.
HERE'S
TODAY'S
LESSON.

THE LOWER
YOU GO INTO
THE ACTIVIST
GRUNT RANKS,
THE MORE
THEY UNCON-
SCIOUSLY
MAKE THEM-
SELVES
OBVIOUS.

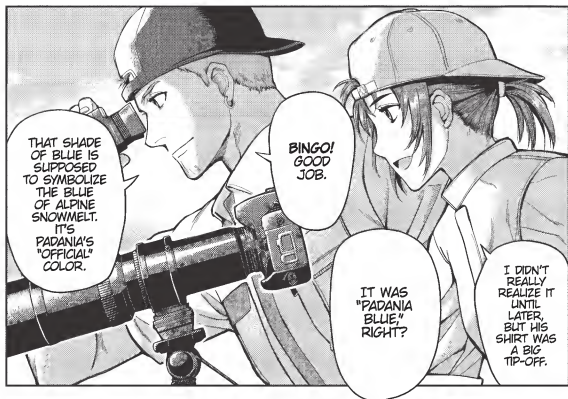


UHHMM,
LESSEE...

THE
FIRST
SIGN
WAS HIS
CLOTHES,
RIGHT?

HOW
DO YOU
THINK I
SPOTTED
HIM?

REMEMBER
THAT GUY
WE NABBED
AT THE
STATION
LAST
MONTH?



THAT SHADE
OF BLUE IS
SUPPOSED
TO SYMBOLIZE
THE BLUE
OF ALPINE
SNOWMELT.
IT'S
PADANIA'S
"OFFICIAL"
COLOR.

BINGO!
GOOD
JOB.

IT WAS
"PADANIA
BLUE,"
RIGHT?

I DIDN'T
REALLY
REALIZE IT
UNTIL
LATER,
BUT HIS
SHIRT WAS
A BIG
TIP-OFF.



BUT,
SIGNORIO
SANDRO...

YEAH?



EXACTLY.

IF WE
KNOW HOW
TO SPOT IT,
THERE
HAVE GOT
TO BE
PROS WHO
KNOW HOW
TO HIDE IT,
RIGHT?



AND THIS
HISTORY
SEEPS OUT IN
EVERYTHING
THEY DO.
WHAT THEY
WEAR.
WHAT NEWSPA-
PER THEY READ.
WHAT MODEL OF
CAR THEY DRIVE.
THAT KIND OF
STUFF.



EVERY-
BODY'S
GOT THEIR
OWN
UNIQUE
HISTORY,
SEE...



HM?

NOTHIN'...
Y'KNOW,
YOU'RE
AWFULLY
FULL OF
SPUNK AND
ENTHUSIASM
THESE
DAYS.



THOSE
ARE THE
GUYS
YOU
HAVE TO
SNIFF
OUT.



YUP.

EXPERIENCE
IS THE
ONLY WAY,
HUH?



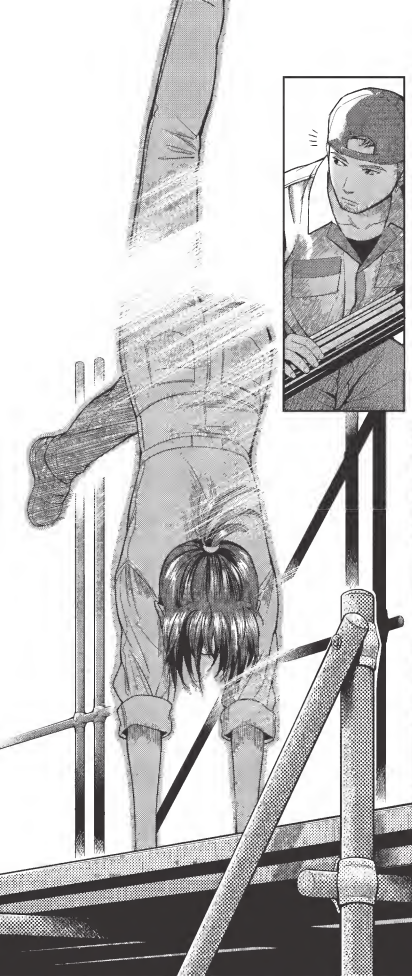
OKAY,
TODAY'S
ASSIGNMENT
IS TO
SPOT THE
ACTIVISTS
IN THE
SQUARE
DOWN
THERE.

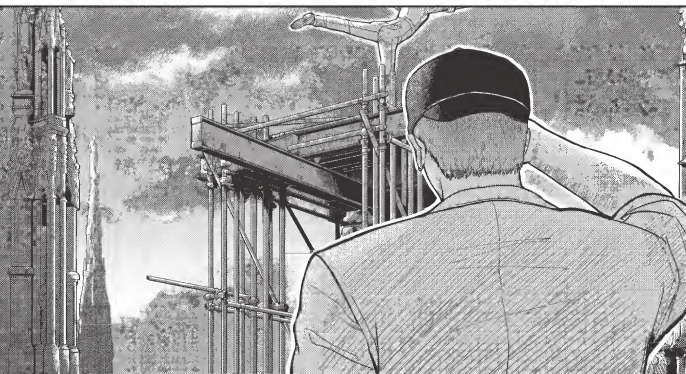
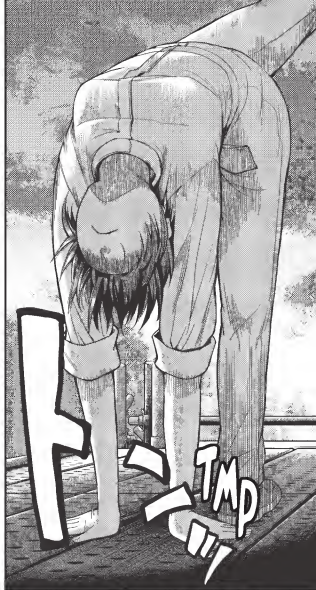
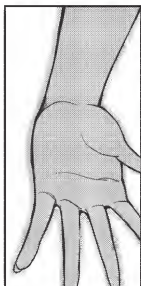
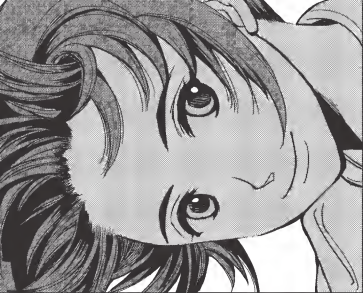
THIS IS MILAN,
SO FOUR OUT
OF FIVE PEOPLE
ARE GONNA BE
FIVE REPUBLICS
SYMPATHIZERS.
BUT DON'T
THINK THAT'S
GONNA MAKE
THINGS
EASY.



YEP!
BECAUSE
EVERY DAY
IS FULL
AND
REWARDING
FOR ME.

WELL,
GOOD
FOR YOU.



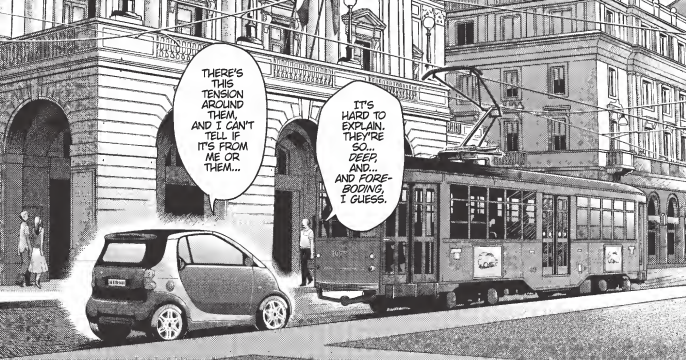


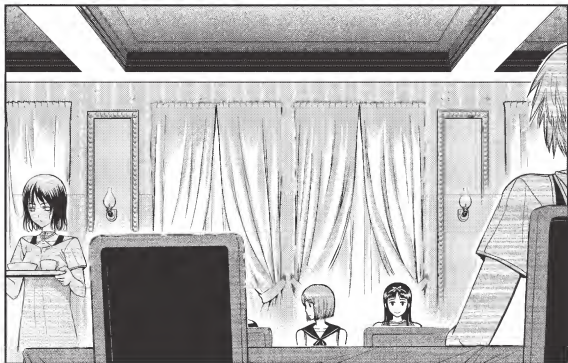
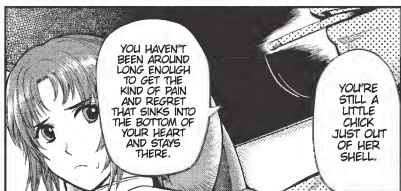


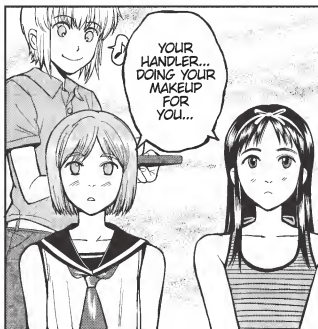


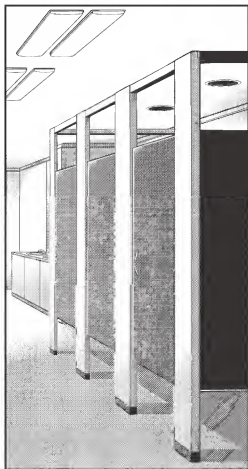
SO, HOW'RE THINGS IN THE DORM?









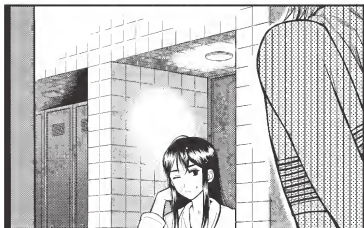




HM.
JUST
GLASS.
THE
LENSES
DON'T
HAVE ANY
PRESCRIPTION
TO THEM....

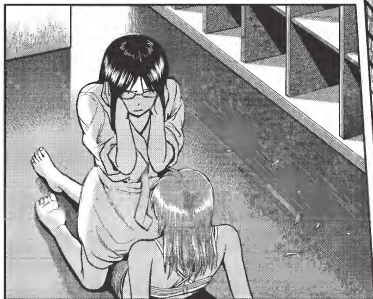


CLAES'
GLASSES!











I AM
WELL
AWARE
SHE DID
NOT INTEND
ANYTHING
MALICIOUS
BY IT.

IT'S MY FAULT,
REALLY...
IF I HADN'T
TOLD HER TO
OBSERVE THE
REST OF YOU,
SHE WOULDN'T
HAVE FELT
THE NEED TO
DO THAT.



I'M
REALLY
SORRY
ABOUT
WHAT
HAPPENED.



I'D LIKE
TO KNOW
THE
REASON
MYSELF.
RIGHT NOW,
THEY
JUST...
ARE.

PETRA
ISN'T THE
ONLY ONE
CURIOUS
ABOUT WHY
THESE
GLASSES
ARE SO
PRECIOUS
TO ME...



IT'S
ALL
RIGHT.

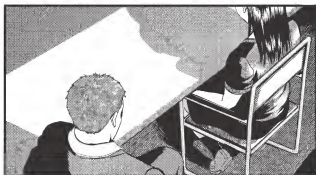
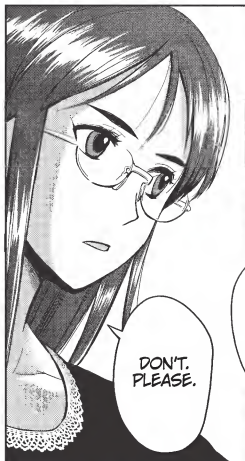
STILL,
I DIDN'T
MEAN
TO HAVE
HER DO
SOMETHING
THAT'D
PISS YOU
OFF THAT
BAD.



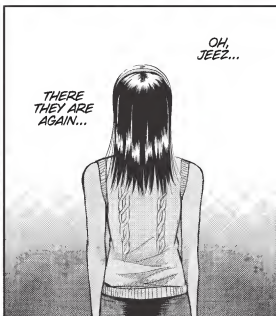
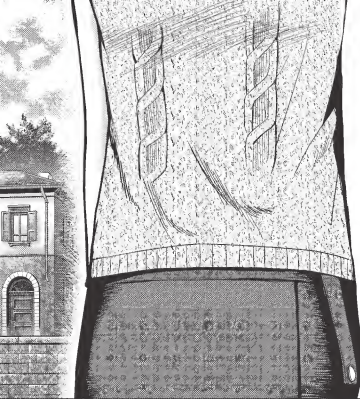
MY BODY
SIMPLY...
MOVED
BEFORE
MY MIND
COULD
CATCH UP
WITH IT.

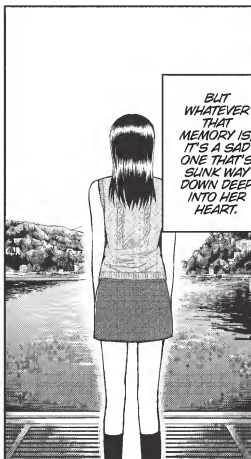


I
WASN'T
VERY
ANGRY
ABOUT IT
IN THE
FIRST PLACE.









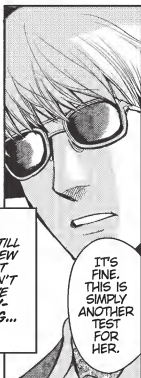
BUT
WHATEVER
THAT
MEMORY IS,
IT'S A SAD
ONE THAT'S
SLUNK WAY
DOWN DEEP
INTO HER
HEART.



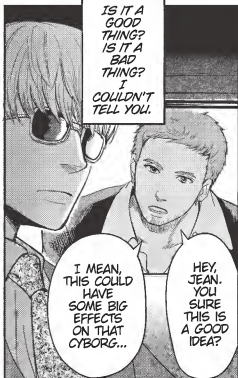
IT SEEMS
PRETTY
OBVIOUS
THAT SHE
MADE SOME
PRECIOUS
MEMORY AT
A PLACE
LIKE THIS IN
THE PAST.



I'M STILL
SO NEW
THAT
I DON'T
HAVE
ANY-
THING...



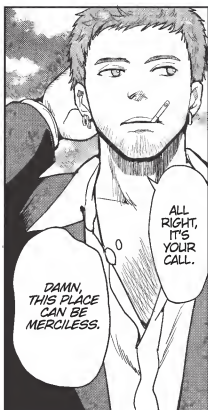
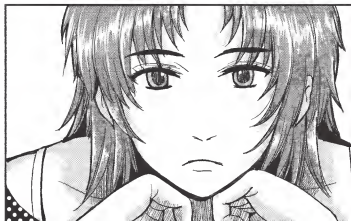
IT'S
FINE.
THIS IS
SIMPLY
ANOTHER
TEST
FOR
HER.



IS IT A
GOOD
THING?
IS IT A
BAD
THING?
I
COULDN'T
TELL YOU.

I MEAN,
THIS COULD
HAVE
SOME BIG
EFFECTS
ON THAT
CYBORG...

HEY,
JEAN.
YOU
SURE
THIS IS
A GOOD
IDEA?



GUNSLINGERGIRL.

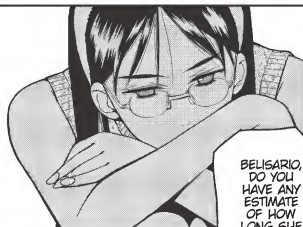


CHAPTER 34: PROMISES

THIS ISN'T
SOME
ORDER THAT
CAN BE
CHANGED
WHenever.
THIS IS A
BLOOD
OATH.

NOW,
WHILE YOU
WEAR THESE
GLASSES,
I WANT YOU
TO BE THE
GENTLE
AND QUIET
CLAES.

LAKE MAGGIORE, PIEDMONT
ITALY-SWITZERLAND BORDER



BELISARIO,
DO YOU
HAVE ANY
ESTIMATE
OF HOW
LONG SHE
WILL BE
AT THIS?

IT
SHOULDN'T
BE LONG.
EMOTIONS
WITHOUT A
RECOGNIZ-
ABLE CAUSE
ARE
FLEETING.

AS
LONG
AS IT
TAKES TO
SATISFY
HER.





BUT IT SHOULD
FADE SHORTLY,
AS IT WILL NOT
BE POSSIBLE
FOR HER TO
RECALL WHY
SHE HAS THAT
ATTACHMENT.

SHE
CLEARLY
HAS A
STRONG
EMOTIONAL
ATTACHMENT
TO LAKES.



THEY FEEL
NO FEAR OR
CONFUSION
OVER THEIR
LACK OF
MEMORIES OF
THEIR PAST.
BUT THIS?
WELL....

THEY FEEL
NO GUILT OR
REMORSE
AT TAKING
A HUMAN
LIFE.



ABSO-
LUTELY.

ARE YOU
POSITIVE
SHE WILL
NOT
REMEMBER
?



HOWEVER,
CLAES
STILL
HAS AN
OBVIOUS
AND
STRONG
REACTION
TO LAKES.

YES.
THAT IS
ONE
OF MANY
MYSTERIES
OF THE
HUMAN
BODY.



IT IS
SURPRISINGLY
EASY TO
ERASE
MEMORIES
FROM A
PERSON.

ALL IT
REQUIRES IS
A SMALL
ELECTRICAL
SHOCK TO
THE CORRECT
AREA OF
THE BRAIN.



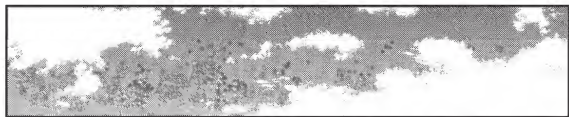
IT'S
MYSTIFYING.

YET SHE
IS STILL
CONCERNED
ABOUT IT,
DEEP INSIDE,
AND THAT
CONCERN HAS
FOUND A WAY
TO BUBBLE UP
AROUND OUR
SUGGESTIONS.



WE ENCODE
MANY
SUBLIMINAL
MESSAGES
INTO THE
CYBORGS'
BRAINS.

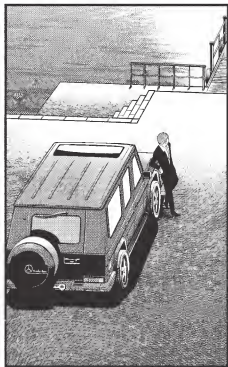
SEVERAL
ALONG THE
LINES OF
"DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT."

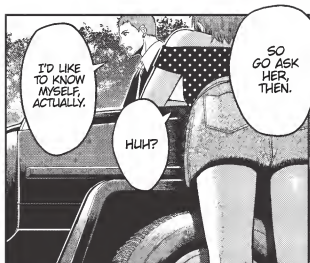


CAN WE
GO YET?
HOW
LONG IS IT
GONNA
BE?

C'MON,
SIGNORIO
SANDRO!

HELL
IF I
KNOW.
BE
PATIENT.





I'D LIKE
TO KNOW
MYSELF,
ACTUALLY.

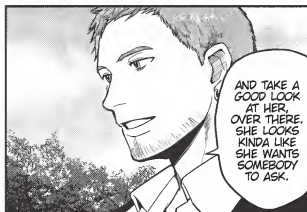
SO
GO ASK
HER,
THEN.

HUH?



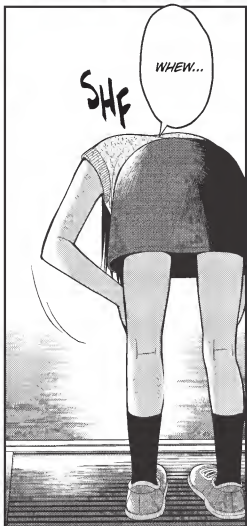
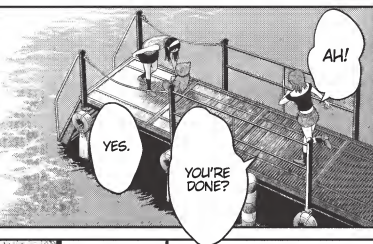
THIS IS
SO UNFAIR!
I MEAN,
WE'RE THE
ONES WHO
BROUGHT
HER OUT
HERE WHEN
SHE
ASKED...

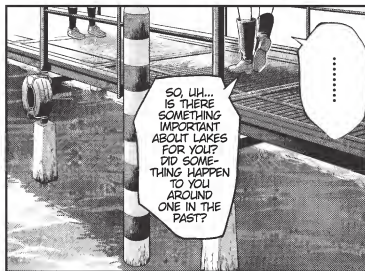
BUT SHE
NEVER TOLD
US WHY.
EVERYBODY
ELSE SEEMS
TO KNOW.
WE'RE THE
ONLY ONES
GETTING
LEFT OUT.

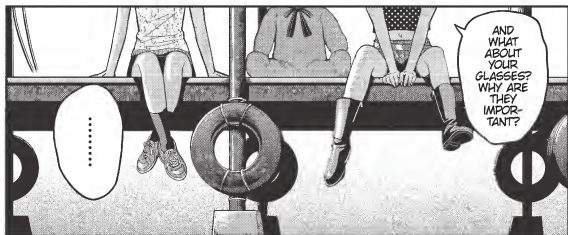


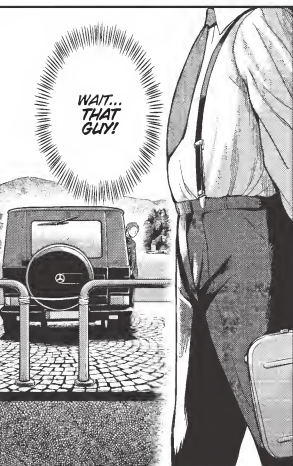
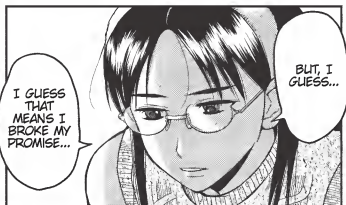
AND TAKE A
GOOD LOOK
AT HER,
OVER THERE.
SHE LOOKS
KINDA LIKE
SHE WANTS
SOMEBODY
TO ASK.

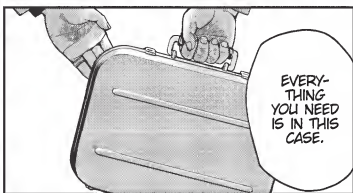
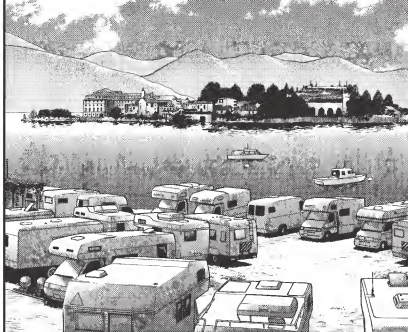
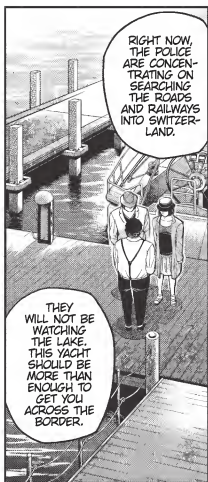


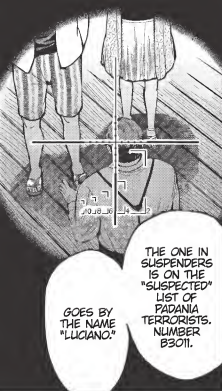












GOES BY
THE NAME
"LUCIANO."

THE ONE IN
SUSPENDERS
IS ON THE
"SUSPECTED"
LIST OF
PADANIA
TERRORISTS.
NUMBER
B3011.



YES,
THIS WILL
DEFINITELY
BE USEFUL.
THANKS.



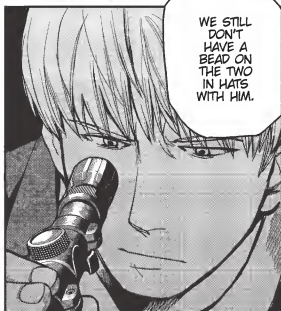
AFTER ALL,
YOU CAN'T
FORGET THAT
THE EU*
SUMMIT
WILL BE IN
MILAN NEXT
YEAR.

ONCE ALL
THE FUSS
DIES DOWN,
IT SHOULD
BE QUITE
HELPFUL ON
YOUR NEXT
JOB.

*EU = European Union



WHAT
DO YOU
WANNA
DO?



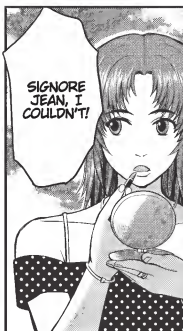
WE STILL
DON'T
HAVE A
BEAD ON
THE TWO
IN HATS
WITH HIM.

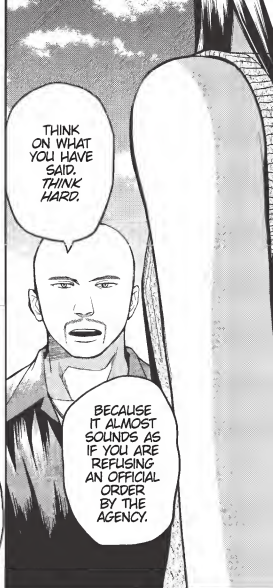


HE'S A
PRO-
CURER.

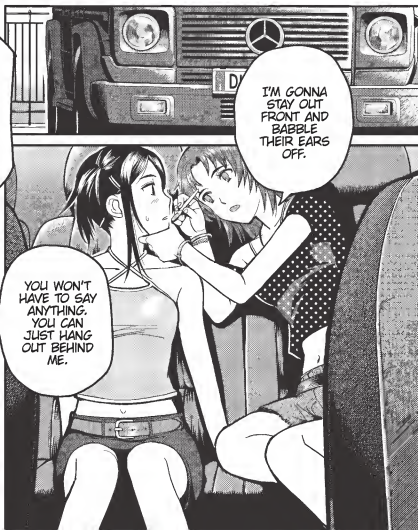
WHAT
DOES HE
DO?

HIS JOB
IS GENERALLY
GETTING
AHEAD OF
EXPLOSIVES,
AND THEN
GETTING THEM
INTO THE
HANDS OF
PADANIA'S
BOMBERS.













HI!
WE'RE, LIKE,
ON OUR WAY
TO VISIT
THIS FRIEND
OF OURS
WHO LIVES
UP IN
CANOBBIO...

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?



IS THIS
YOUR
BOAT,
SIGNORE?

EXCUSE
ME~!

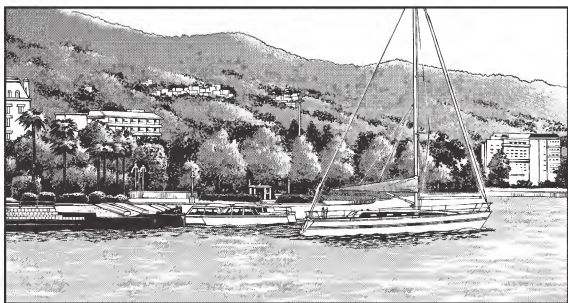
YEAH.

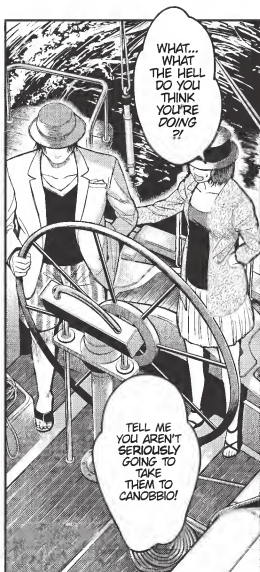
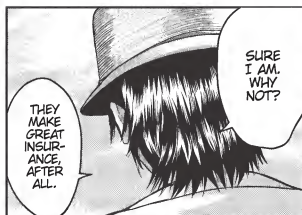


SO, UM,
YEAH! WE'RE
LOOKING FOR
SOMEBODY
WHO'D BE
NICE ENOUGH
TO LET
US HITCH
A RIDE.



BUT, UM,
WE KINDA
RAN OUT
OF
MONEY...







HEE HEE,
THANKS.
THINKING UP
A ROLE TO
PLAY AND
ACTING IT
OUT IS
ACTUALLY
LOADS
OF FUN.



YOU HAVE
A PRETTY
IMPRESSIVE
ABILITY TO
IMPROVISE.



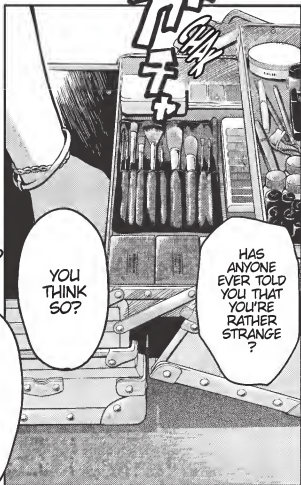
OOH,
YOU
COULD
TELL?

WAS THAT
A MILAN
ACCENT
YOU WERE
USING
JUST
NOW?



ANYWAY,
TIME TO
WORK.

WHY DON'T
YOU GO HANG
OUT ON DECK?
LOOK FOR A
CHANCE TO
PEEK INTO THE
CASE THAT
GUY HAS.



YOU
THINK
SO?

HAS
ANYONE
EVER TOLD
YOU THAT
YOU'RE
RATHER
STRANGE
?





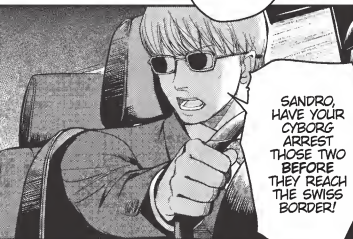
HAVE TO, REALLY, SINCE THIS CAR STICKS OUT WAY TOO MUCH TO BE GOOD FOR EXTENDED TAILING.

AH, WELL. WE'RE STILL FOLLOWING LUCIANO. GONNA GRAB HIM SOON, THOUGH.



YEAH, NADA IN THE WAY OF GOOD EVIDENCE.

SIGNORIO SANDRO? HI. I CHECKED THE WHOLE CABIN, AND I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING.



SANDRO, HAVE YOUR CYBORG ARREST THOSE TWO BEFORE THEY REACH THE SWISS BORDER!



BESIDES, THERE WON'T BE ANY WITNESSES ON THE LAKE. TELL HER TO TAKE THEM DOWN!

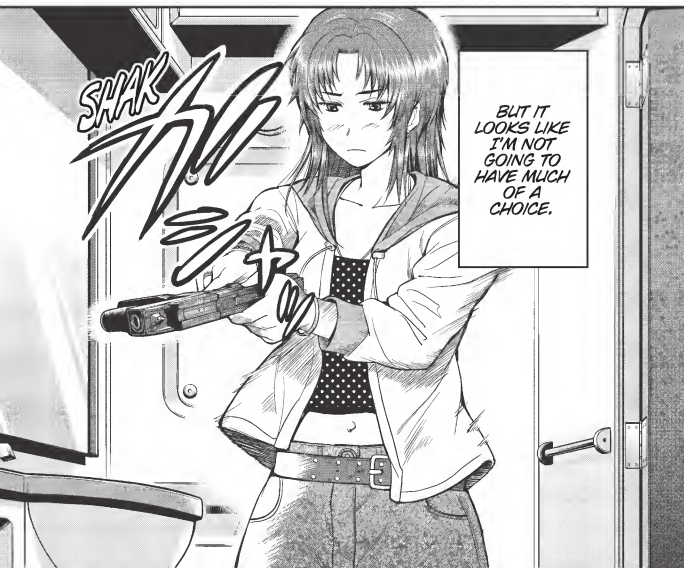
IRRELEVANT! THEY WERE SEEN TALKING WITH A KNOWN PADANIA CRIMINAL IN SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. THAT'S PLENTY TO NAIL THE TWO ON ACCESSORY TO TERRORISM CHARGES!

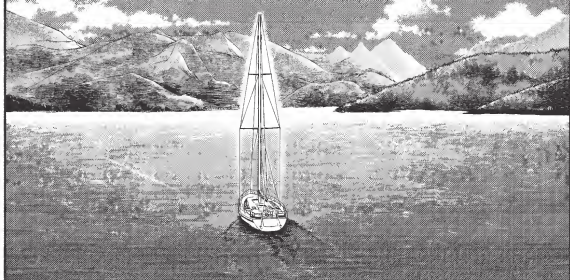


THEY'RE PADANIA!

WHAT IF THEY REALLY ARE JUST A PAIR OF PLAIN OL' TOURISTS?

UH, YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? THEY HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO DOUBLE-CHECK THAT CASE LUCIANO HANDED OVER.



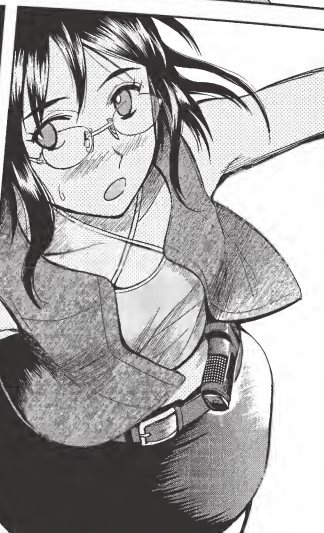
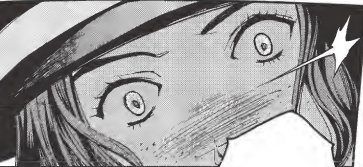


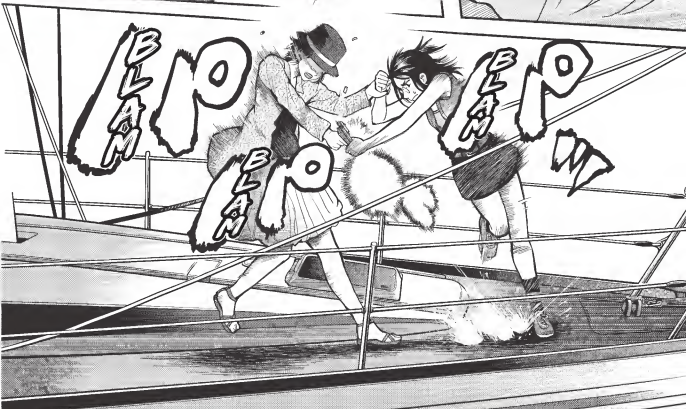
HEY!
ARE YOU
LISTENING
TO ME?!

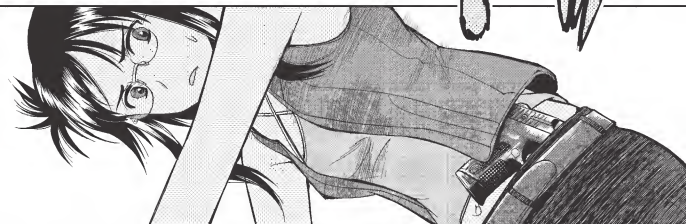
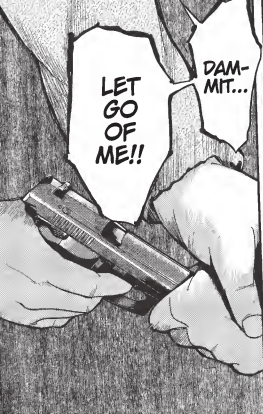


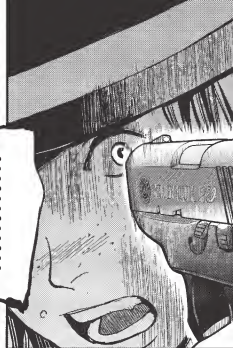
COME
BACK
FROM
THERE.
IT'S
DANGER-
OUS!

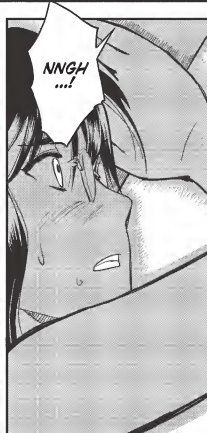
HEY,
YOU!



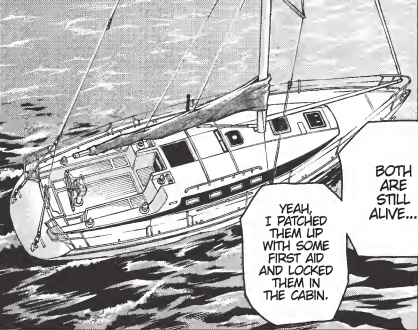






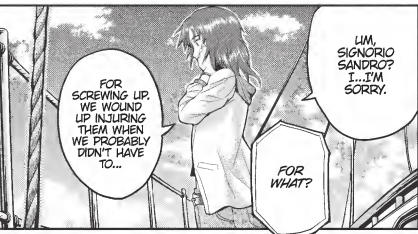






YEAH,
I PATCHED
THEM UP
WITH SOME
FIRST AID
AND LOCKED
THEM IN
THE CABIN.

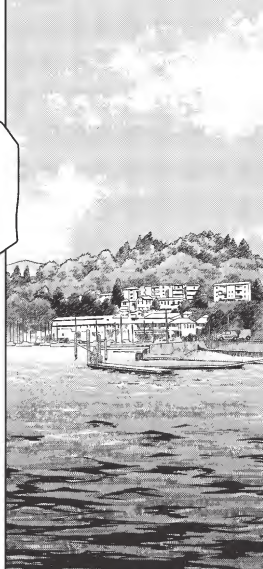
BOTH
ARE
STILL
ALIVE...



FOR
SCREWING UP.
WE WOUND
UP INJURING
THEM WHEN
WE PROBABLY
DIDN'T HAVE
TO...

UM,
SIGNORIO
SANDRO?
I...I'M
SORRY.

FOR
WHAT?

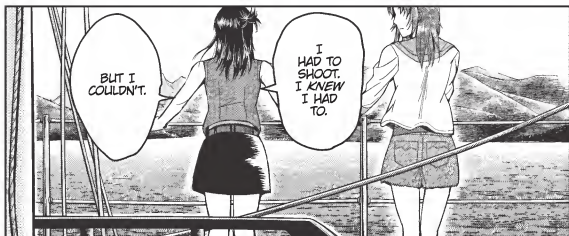


AFTER ALL,
WE KINDA
HAVE
SOMETHING
SIMILAR
GOIN' ON
OVER
HERE.



OH, THAT?
DON'T
WORRY,
I WOULDN'T
CALL THAT A
"SCREW
UP."







DON'T
BE SO
HARD ON
YOURSELF!

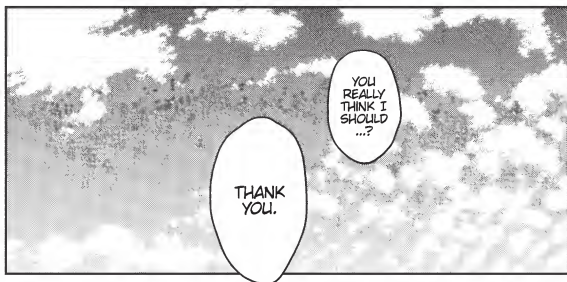
OH,
COME
ON!

STOP
TRYING TO
GLORIFY IT.
I'M BEING
PIG-HEADED
AND
STUBBORN,
THAT'S
ALL...



SO,
KEEP IT UP,
OKAY?
DON'T LET
ANYBODY
TAKE IT
AWAY FROM
YOU.

I LIKE
PEOPLE WHO
PUT THEIR
WHOLE
HEART INTO
THE STUFF
THEY DO.

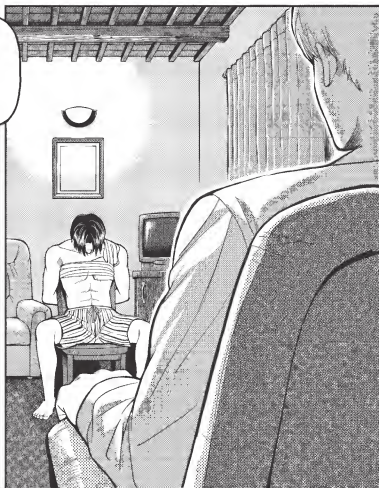
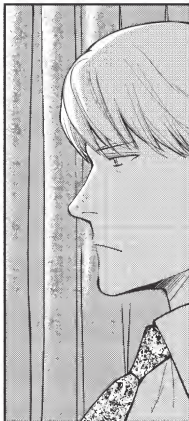


THANK
YOU.

YOU
REALLY
THINK I
SHOULD
...?

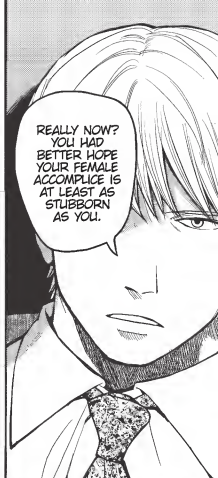
GUNSLINGERGIRL.







I MAY BE
IN A GENEROUS
MOOD, BUT NOT
THAT GENEROUS.
ONLY THE FIRST
ONE TO SPILL
THEIR GUTS WILL
GET OFF EASY.
I WILL BRING
THE HAMMER
DOWN ON
WHOEVER IS
LEFT.



REALLY NOW?
YOU HAD
BETTER HOPE
YOUR FEMALE
ACCOMPLICE IS
AT LEAST AS
STUBBORN
AS YOU.



DO YOU
REALLY
THINK ANY
OF US ARE
GULLIBLE
ENOUGH TO
BUY THAT
LINE?

HA...



WELL,
I'LL BE
DAMNED!
HOW
COULD I
MISS
IT...

YOU'RE
ONE OF
THE
CROCE
SURVIVORS!



.....
?

Y'KNOW,
I THINK
I'VE
SEEN YOU
BEFORE...



BUT, NO...
HERE
YOU ARE,
STILL
LICKING
ROME'S
ASS LIKE
A GOOD
LITTLE
DOG!!



EVERYBODY
THINKS YOU
GOT SCARED.
QUIT THE
CARABINIERI,
AND RAN FOR
THE BORDER
LIKE SOME
FRIGHTENED
LITTLE GIRL...



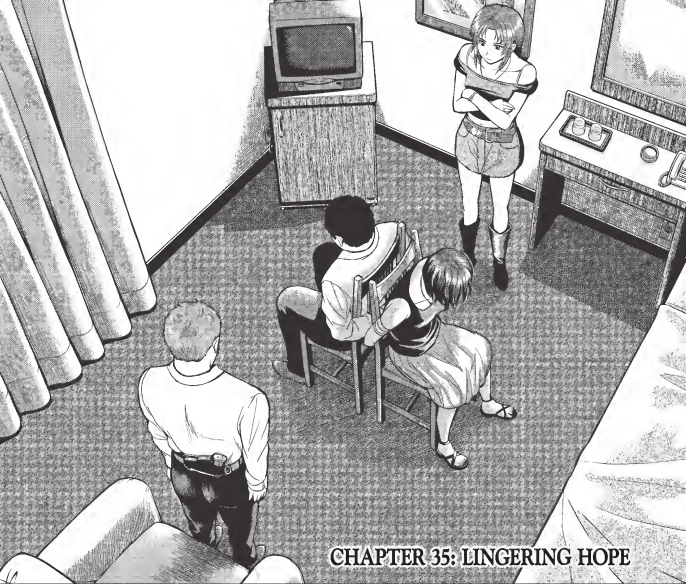
AHA
HA
HA
HA!!

WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
DOING
HANGING
'ROUND
HERE,
MAN?!

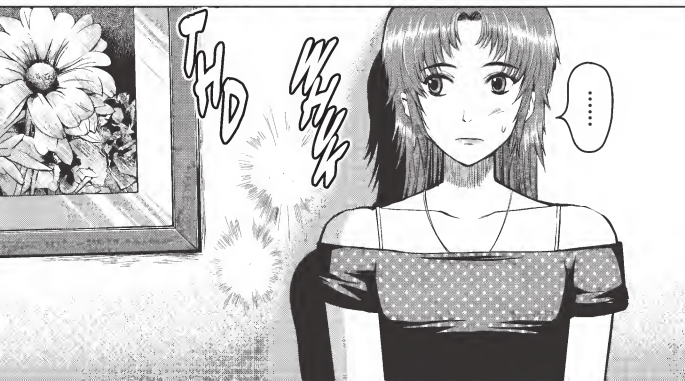


WHAT,
TRYING
TO GET
REVENGE
?!





CHAPTER 35: LINGERING HOPE





H/N.
IF YOU
THINK HE'S
BAD NOW,
YOU
SHOULD'VE
SEEN HIM
THIS
AFTERNOON.



HE WAS
DEAD SET ON
NABBING
LUCIANO,
AND SCREW
ANYBODY
WHO GOT IN
HIS WAY...

SIGNORE
JEAN
SURE IS
BEING
ROUGH...



THERE'S
SOMETHING
DEEPER
GOIN' ON
HERE FOR
HIM, MAKE
NO MISTAKE
ABOUT IT.



NOPE.
I'M
PRETTY
CURIOUS
ABOUT IT
MYSELF.

YEAH.
IS IT
WRONG
FOR ME
TO BE
CURIOUS
?



I'M THINKING HE'S PROBABLY GOT SOME PERSONAL GRUDGE GOING ON.

KEFF

KEFF



IT'D BE REALLY NICE IF HE DIDN'T DAMAGE THEM TOO MUCH.

AFTER CLAES AND I WENT TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO BRING THEM IN ALIVE...



YEP! THE NORTH IS RICH, AND THE SOUTH IS POOR, SO THE NORTH IS GETTING PEEVED THAT THEY HAVE TO KEEP BAILING THE SOUTH OUT.



NOW, YOU KNOW WHAT THE MAIN PROBLEM BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH IS, RIGHT?



GAK

NOT THE REGULAR ONES PUSHING FOR THE NORTH TO SECEDE FROM THE SOUTH, BUT THE EXTREME TERRORIST BUNCH?

THESE GUYS ARE PADANIA, RIGHT...?



ORIGINALLY, THEY WERE JUST A GROUP THAT BACKED THE RIGHT-WING GOVERNMENT.

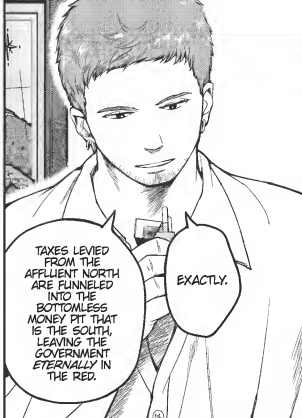
IF YOU WANNA BE REALLY GENERAL, THEN YEAH.



THE NORTH IS SICK OF THIS, SO THEY WANT TO SECEDE AND BECOME THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

AND LEAVE POLITICAL HEADACHES, LIKE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM AFRICA AND THE BALKANS, FOR THE SOUTH TO DEAL WITH.

THEN THEY COULD GET RID OF ALL THOSE ANNOYING LITTLE TAXES ON THINGS LIKE SPORTS AND PORN...



TAXES LEVIED FROM THE AFFLUENT NORTH ARE FUNNELED INTO THE BOTTOMLESS MONEY PIT THAT IS THE SOUTH, LEAVING THE GOVERNMENT ETERNALLY IN THE RED.

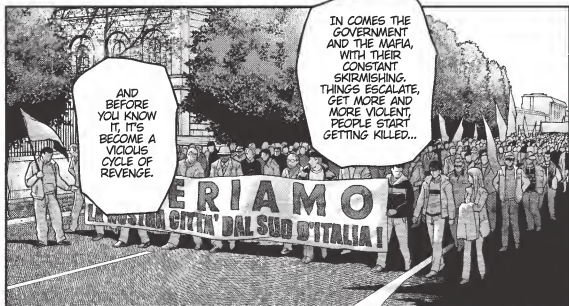
EXACTLY.



MOST OF THEM HAVE FAR STRONGER LOYALTIES TO THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

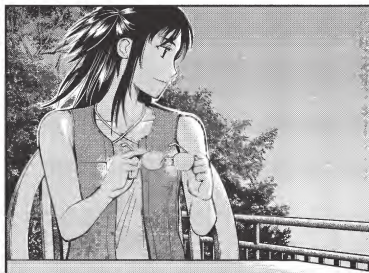
SEE, THE GENERAL POPULATION'S SENSE OF PATRIOTISM TOWARDS ITALY AS A WHOLE IS AWFULLY THIN.

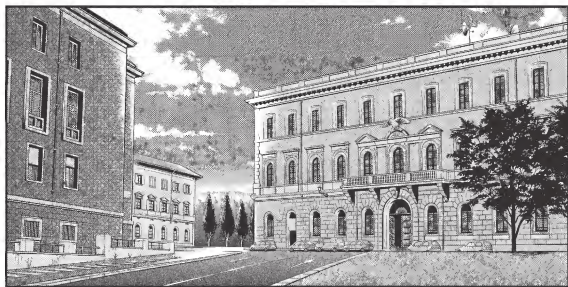
THIS PROBABLY DOESN'T FEEL ALL THAT REAL TO YOU, I BET. YOU'RE TOO YOUNG.



AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, IT'S BECOME A VICIOUS CYCLE OF REVENGE.

IN COMES THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MAFIA, WITH THEIR CONSTANT SKIRMISHING. THINGS ESCALATE, GET MORE AND MORE VIOLENT, PEOPLE START GETTING KILLED...







ER, HI,
SIGNORE
RICCI...
WHAT CAN
WE DO
FOR YOU?

GAH!
SPEAK
OF THE
DEVIL!

FOR
ONE,
YOU CAN
CALL ME
SANDRO.

YO,
PRISCILLA!



ANYWAY,
DO YOU
HAVE A
MINUTE?

YEAH...



WHAT
DO YOU
NEED?



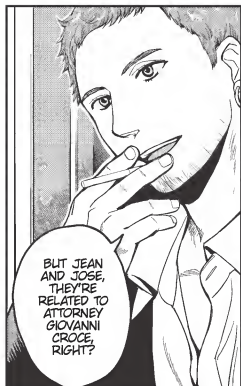
UH,
THANKS.

?

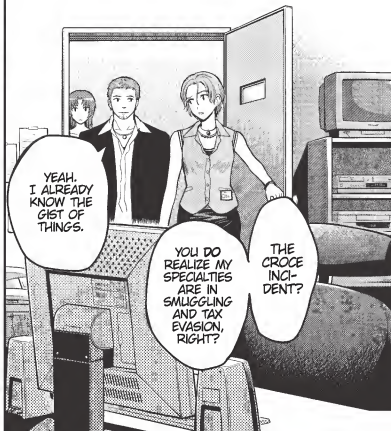


OOH,
LOVE
THE
ACCESSO-
RIES!

PEEK



BUT JEAN
AND JOSE,
THEY'RE
RELATED TO
ATTORNEY
GIOVANNI
CROCE,
RIGHT?



YEAH.
I ALREADY
KNOW THE
GIST OF
THINGS.

YOU DO
REALIZE MY
SPECIALTIES
ARE IN
SMUGGLING
AND TAX
EVASION,
RIGHT?

THE
CROCE
INCI-
DENT?



DID
THEY TELL
YOU THAT
THEM-
SELVES?

NO.
I OVER-
HEARD IT
FROM ONE
OF MY
FRIENDS
IN THE
MILITARY.



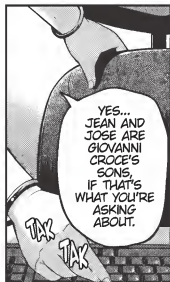
I MEAN,
I'M PRETTY
SURE HE
HAD TWO
SONS
IN THE
MILITARY,
RIGHT?

THIS
ROOM'S
NON-
SMOKING.
THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.

KLX
YMMMM



I DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
BEYOND
THAT,
THOUGH.



YES...
JEAN AND
JOSE ARE
GIOVANNI
CROCE'S
SONS,
IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU'RE
ASKING
ABOUT.



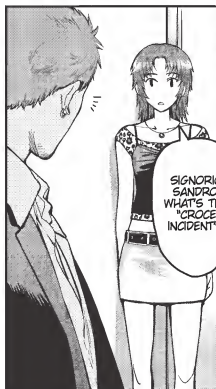
WELL, WE WERE UP AT LAKE MAGGIORE THE OTHER DAY WHEN WE TRIPPED OVER THESE PADANIA TERRORISTS. NABBED 'EM, OF COURSE.

HEY, LOOK! IT'S THE NEW CYBORG.



THE BROTHERS DON'T LIKE PEOPLE NOSING AROUND IN THEIR PAST...

KEEP IN MIND, THIS IS A SECRET, OKAY?



TURNS OUT THE TWO OF THEM WERE THE ONES WHO MURDERED THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY ON THE CROCE INCIDENT CASE LAST WEEK.

I DECIDED THIS WOULD BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO EARN SOME BROWNIE POINTS, SO I TOOK A DEEPER LOOK INTO THEM.



ESPECIALLY
THOSE
ASSIGNED TO
PADANIA
CASES.

OKAY,
FIRST YOU
HAVE TO
UNDERSTAND
THAT LAWYERS
HERE HAVE
ALWAYS HAD TO
WORRY ABOUT
GETTING
ASSASSINATED.



EVERYBODY
JUST CALLS
IT THE
CROCE
INCIDENT
THESE
DAYS.

THE MOST
FAMOUS
OF THESE
ASSASSINATIONS
OCCURRED FIVE
YEARS AGO,
WHEN CHIEF
PROSECUTOR
GIOVANNI
CROCE WAS
KILLED.



THAT
WAS THE
START OF
ANOTHER
VICIOUS
CYCLE OF
REVENGE.



CORRIERE DELLA MATTINA

Specchio e cronaca a Scalfaro nella corsa al Quirinale

Orrore, ucciso Croce

L'autostrada. Morti la moglie e i tre figli. Il delitto mi hanno dato del pazzo.

Il primo ministro...

acc...

SEE, PADANIA SET UP A BOMB ALONG THE ROAD CROCE WAS TAKING ON A VACATION TRIP. THEY DROVE BY THE SPOT, AND... BOOM.

CROCE WAS KILLED, ALONG WITH ALL OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE ALONG FOR THE RIDE.

Sei...

Sei...

Sei...

Sei...

Sei...

Sei...

Sei...

Sei...

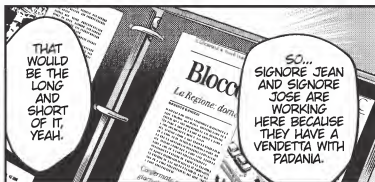
Sei...

Sei...



SO IN THE END, WHO'S REALLY AT FAULT HERE?

WE'RE OUT TO GET REVENGE ON THEM... BUT THEY'RE OUT TO GET REVENGE ON US.



THAT WOULD BE THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT, YEAH.

SO... SIGNORE JEAN AND SIGNORE JOSE ARE WORKING HERE BECAUSE THEY HAVE A VENDETTA WITH PADANIA.



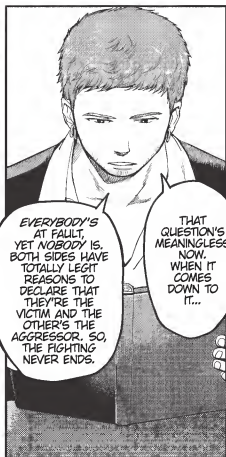
NOPE.

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT?



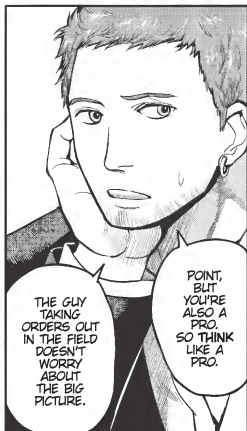
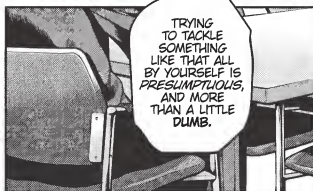
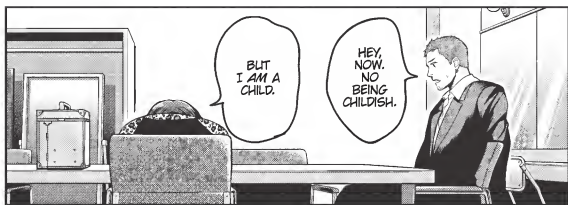
Y'KNOW, THIS REALLY SUCKS...

.....



EVERYBODY'S AT FAULT, YET NOBODY IS. BOTH SIDES HAVE TOTALLY LEGIT REASONS TO DECLARE THAT THEY'RE THE VICTIM AND THE OTHER'S THE AGGRESSOR. SO, THE FIGHTING NEVER ENDS.

THAT QUESTION'S MEANINGLESS NOW, WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT...





BUT
SOMETIMES
YOU JUST
MAKE THESE
RANDOM,
EXECUTIVE
DECISIONS
ON THINGS,
AND I
HATE IT!

YOU'RE
USUALLY SO
COOL AND
SMART AND
MATURE,
SIGNORIO
SANDRO...



KUNK
KUNK
KUNK
WELL,
THAT MAY
BE THE
"RIGHT"
THING TO
DO FROM
SOCIETY'S
VIEW-POINT...

BUT I
DON'T
WANNA
HEAR
IT!



I
AM NOT
GOING
TO
PUKE!!

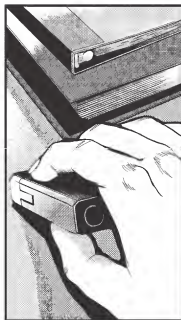
HUH,
Y'KNOW?
THAT COULD
BE CON-
SIDERED AS
AN INSULT.
YOU SURE
YOU AREN'T
GONNA
PUKE?



SHEESH...
WHAT THE
HELL WAS
THAT ALL
ABOUT?



SLAM
RRGH!
I'M
GOING
BACK
TO THE
DORM!

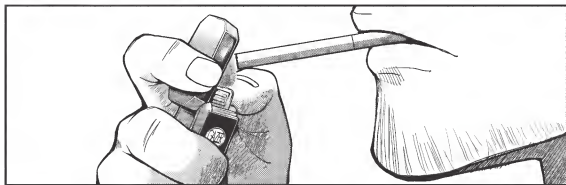


I'LL
HAVE
TO ASK
THE
DOC
ABOUT
IT LATER
...

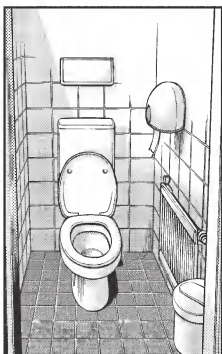


I
WONDER
IF THAT
TEMPER
OF
HERS IS
SOME-
THING
FROM
HER OLD
PER-
SONAL-
ITY?

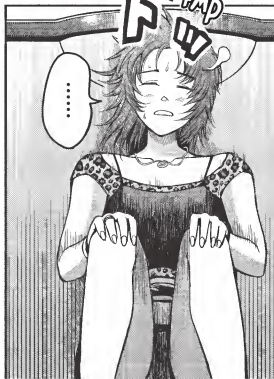
OR DID
THEY
ADD IT
WHEN
THEY
"COND-
TIONED"
HER?

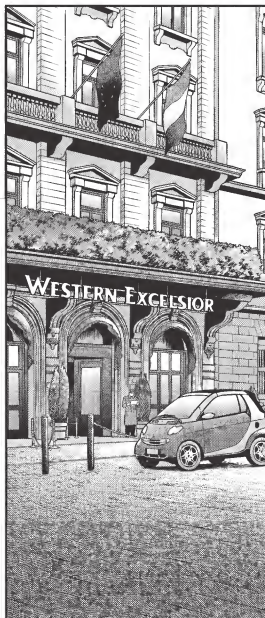
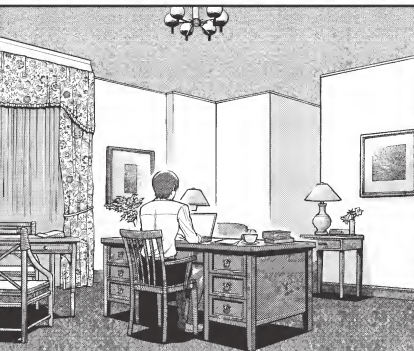
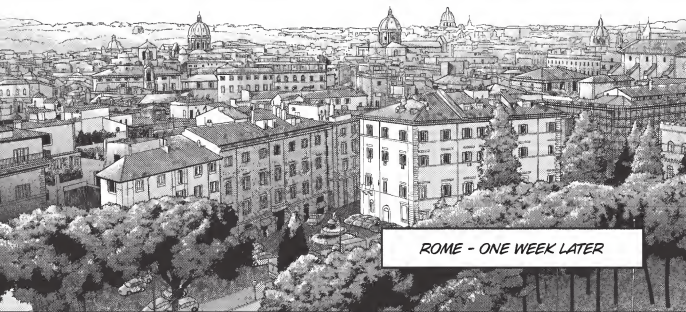


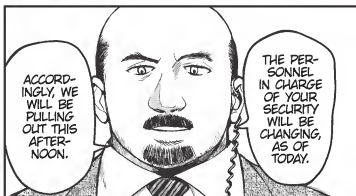
SOMETIMES,
KID, ADULTS
HAVE TO MAKE
"EXECUTIVE
DECISIONS"
LIKE THAT.
OTHERWISE,
LIFE WOULD
DRIVE US
INSANE.



I
DON'T
KNOW
WHY...

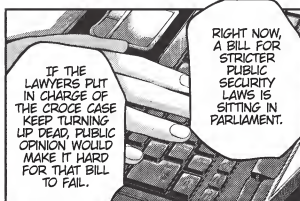


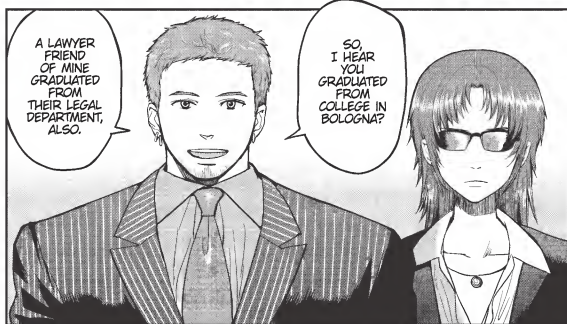




*SISDE = Servizio per le Informazioni e la Sicurezza Democratica

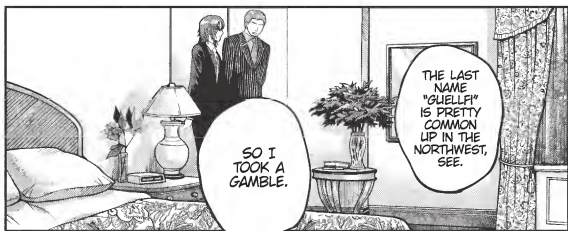












SO I
TOOK A
GAMBLE.

THE LAST
NAME
"GLIELLI" IS
PRETTY
COMMON
UP IN THE
NORTHWEST,
SEE.



NO BIG
DEAL,
REALLY.
THAT DIDN'T
TELL US
MUCH
ABOUT HER,
IN THE END.

BUT WHAT
IF YOU'D
GOTTEN IT
WRONG?



JUST A
TOUCH LIKE
THAT IS
USUALLY
BECAUSE
OF GRAND-
PARENTS.



YEAH, BUT
THERE WAS
A HINT OF
A GENEVAN
ACCENT
IN THERE,
TOO.

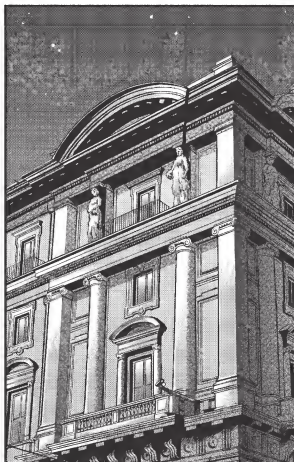
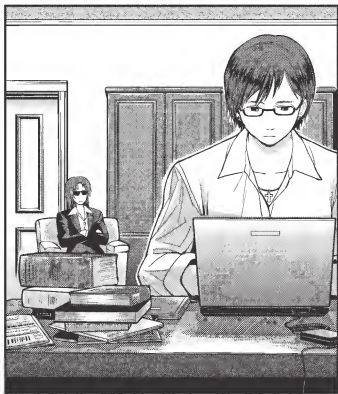
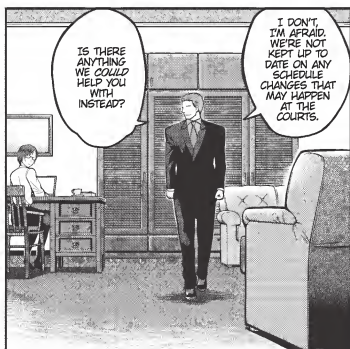
YOU
GUESSED
ON JUST
THAT MUCH?
SHE
SOUNDED
COMPLETELY
ROMAN TO
ME...



WHEN
YOU'RE ON
SHIFT,
I WANT YOU
WATCHING
WITHIN AN
ARM'S REACH
OF HER, EVEN
WHEN SHE'S
ON THE
TOILET.

SHE'S ALSO
NOT VERY
ATHLETIC,
AND SHE TOTALLY
STOPS PAYING
ATTENTION TO HER
SURROUNDINGS
WHEN SHE'S
THINKING ON
SOMETHING.

BUT WHAT
WE DO KNOW
NOW IS
THAT SHE'S
INTELLIGENT,
BUT NOT
VERY GOOD
AT HANDLING
PEOPLE.







I'M PRETTY MUCH JUST A DECORATION ON THIS WHOLE CASE, ACTUALLY. ALL I'M DOING HERE IS WAITING FOR THE TRIAL TO BEGIN.

ALL THE LEGWORK IS BEING HANDLED BY PARALEGALS BACK AT THE DISTRICT COURT, SO I DON'T NEED TO GO OUT.



SO, HAVE YOU BEEN AT THIS HOTEL FOR LONG, SIGNORINA GUELLFI?

IT FEELS LIKE AGES.



WHY DID YOU DECIDE ON SP*?

ERM... I'M ABOUT TWENTY. I'M STILL PRETTY NEW TO ALL THIS.

*SP = Special Police



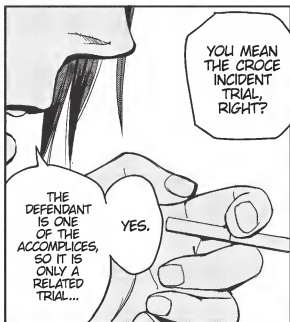
WHY...?

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY... BECAUSE I HAD AN APPTITUDE FOR IT.



BY THE WAY, HOW OLD ARE YOU, SIGNORINA PETRA?

I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND RUDE, BUT YOU LOOK AWFULLY YOUNG...





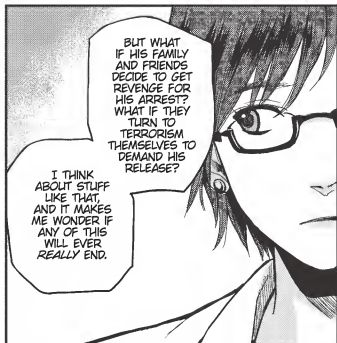
DO YOU
THINK
THAT THE
FIGHTING
WITH
PADANIA
WILL EVER
STOP?

SIGNORINA
GUELLFI?



I DO,
YES.

?



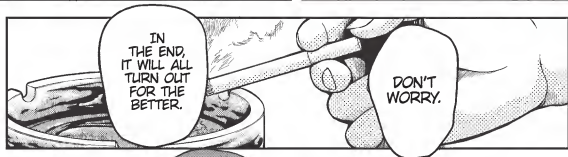
BUT WHAT
IF HIS FAMILY
AND FRIENDS
DECIDE TO GET
REVENGE FOR
HIS ARREST?
WHAT IF THEY
TURN TO
TERRORISM
THEMSELVES TO
DEMAND HIS
RELEASE?

I THINK
ABOUT STUFF
LIKE THAT,
AND IT MAKES
ME WONDER IF
ANY OF THIS
WILL EVER
REALLY END.



REALLY?
I MEAN,
JUST AS AN
EXAMPLE,
LET'S SAY
THAT THE
DEFENDANT
FOR YOUR
CASE GETS
CONVICTED.

THEN
HE'S
GOING
TO GO
TO JAIL,
RIGHT?



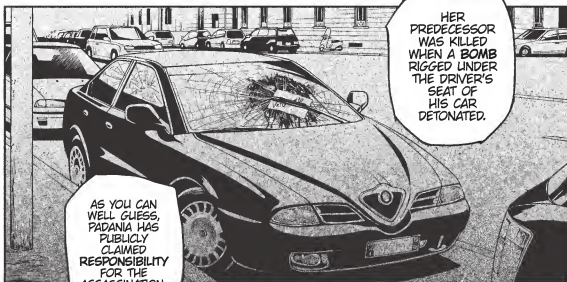
GUNSLINGERGIRL.





SHE IS
THE YOUNG
PROSECUTOR
WHO WAS
RECENTLY
ASSIGNED TO
TAKE OVER
THE CROCE
INCIDENT
CASE.

OUR NEXT
MISSION
IS THE
PROTECTION
OF ONE
ROBERTA
GUELLFI.



HER
PREDECESSOR
WAS KILLED
WHEN A BOMB
RIGGED UNDER
THE DRIVER'S
SEAT OF
HIS CAR
DETONATED.

AS YOU CAN
WELL GUESS,
PADANIA HAS
PUBLICLY
CLAIMED
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE
ASSASSINATION.

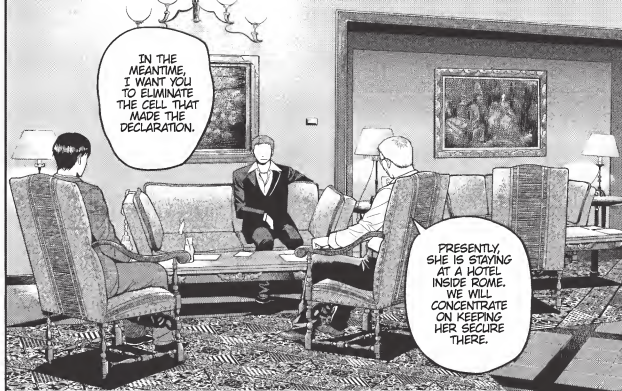
*Verdetto = Judgment



THUS, IT IS
VERY LIKELY
THAT THERE
WILL BE AT
LEAST ONE
ATTEMPT ON
ROBERTA
GUELLFI'S LIFE,
IF NOT
MULTIPLE.

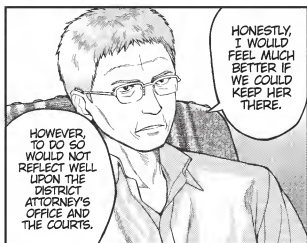
THEY HAVE
ALREADY
DECLARED THAT
THEY WILL KILL
ANY FURTHER
ATTORNEYS
CHARGED WITH
PROSECUTING
THE CASE.

THE
TERRORIST
CELL
DIRECTLY
RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE
BOMBING IS
CONSIDERED
RADICAL
EVEN FOR
PADANIA.



IN THE MEANTIME, I WANT YOU TO ELIMINATE THE CELL THAT MADE THE DECLARATION.

PRESENTLY, SHE IS STAYING AT A HOTEL INSIDE ROME. WE WILL CONCENTRATE ON KEEPING HER SECURE THERE.



HONESTLY, I WOULD FEEL MUCH BETTER IF WE COULD KEEP HER THERE.

HOWEVER, TO DO SO WOULD NOT REFLECT WELL UPON THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE COURTS.



CHIEF, WILL SHE BE ENTIRELY CONFINED TO HER HOTEL ROOM?

I WOULD THINK THERE ARE SOME THINGS SHE WILL NEED TO DO FOR THE CASE THAT WILL INVOLVE MOVING AROUND THE CITY.



WE WILL HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO HANDLE SOME RISK TO HER SAFETY.

THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC **MUST NOT BE ALLOWED** TO BELIEVE SHE IS RUNNING AND HIDING.



HELL,
THEY'RE ALMOST
BEGGING FOR IT.
I MEAN, THIS NEW
PROSECUTOR
HAND-PICKED
BY THE DA HAS
"SACRIFICE"
SCRAWLED ALL
OVER HER.

BUT IT'S
KINDA OBVIOUS
THE POLITICOS
WON'T BE
SHEDDING TOO
MANY TEARS
OVER HER IF
SHE KICKS THE
BUCKET.

Y'KNOW,
THEY'RE
ALL SAYING
THEY WANT
US TO
KEEP HER
ALIVE...



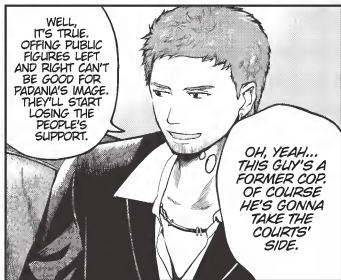
THE
HIGHER-UPS
KNOW THIS.
THAT'S WHAT
THEY'RE
WAITING
FOR.

BEFORE LONG,
PADANIA'S
GOING TO START
TO REALIZE
THAT KILLING
LAWYERS AND
JUDGES
JUST ISN'T
PROFITABLE
ANYMORE.



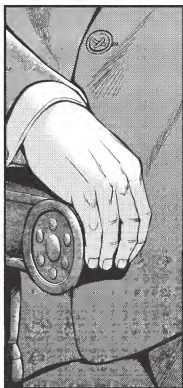
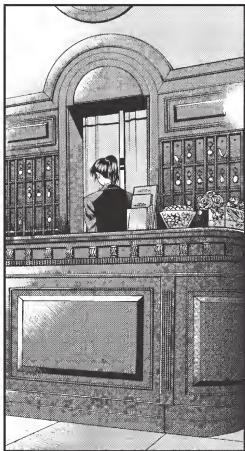
ALES-
SANDRO.

IS THAT
NOT A
LITTLE...
INCONSID-
ERATE
TO VOICE
ALoud?

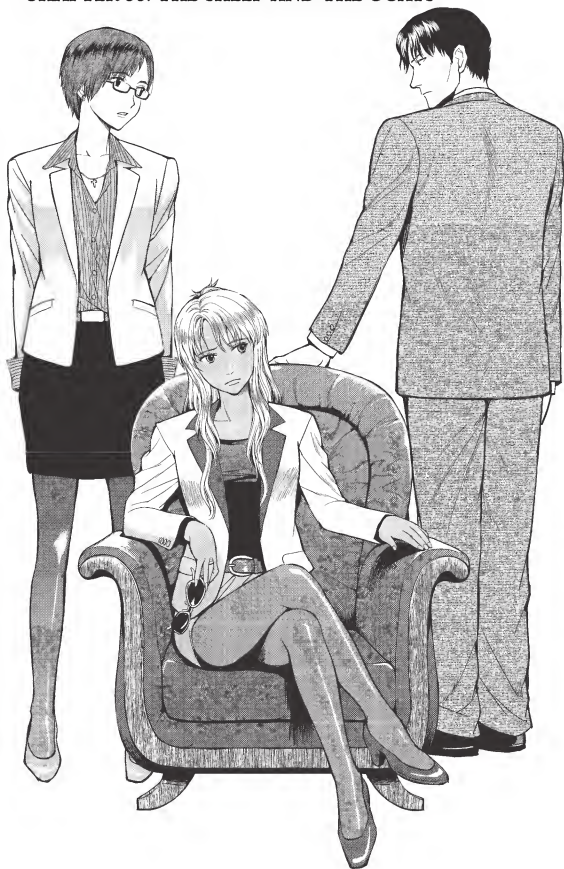


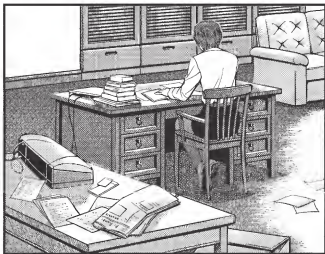
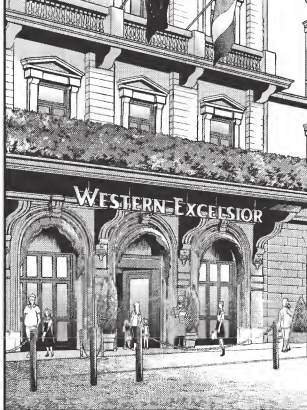
WELL,
IT'S TRUE.
OFFING PUBLIC
FIGURES LEFT
AND RIGHT CAN'T
BE GOOD FOR
PADANIA'S IMAGE.
THEY'LL START
LOSING THE
PEOPLE'S
SUPPORT.

OH, YEAH...
THIS GUY'S A
FORMER COP.
OF COURSE
HE'S GONNA
TAKE THE
COURTS'
SIDE.



CHAPTER 36: THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS









AGAIN,
MY
APOLOGIES.
PLEASE
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.



BUT I
SEE NOW
THAT YOU
ARE QUITE
DIFFERENT.

IT'S
JUST...
FOR A
MOMENT,
YOU
REMINDED
ME VERY
MUCH OF
AN OLD
ACQUAIN-
TANCE.



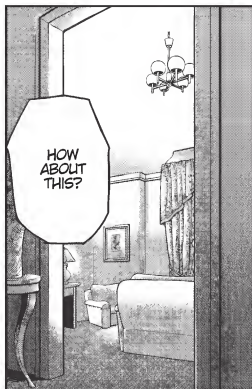
ER,
I DON'T
MEAN TO
BE RUDE,
BUT WAS
THERE
SOMETHING
ON MY
FACE?

OH,
NO.
NO...



DEFINITELY!

DO I
REALLY
LOOK
MORE
ADULT LIKE
THIS?



HOW
ABOUT
THIS?



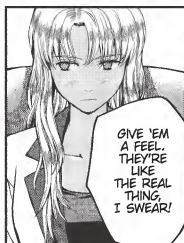


WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?



TRIELA,
IS YOUR
DISGUISE
COMPLETE?

YEAH.



GIVE 'EM
A FEEL.
THEY'RE
LIKE
THE REAL
THING,
I SWEAR!



YEAH,
TURNED OUT
REAL GOOD,
DIDN'T IT?
ESPECIALLY
THE
BOOBS!



NOW,
IF I COULD
HAVE A
MOMENT OF
YOUR TIME?
WE NEED
TO DISCUSS
OUR
PLANS.

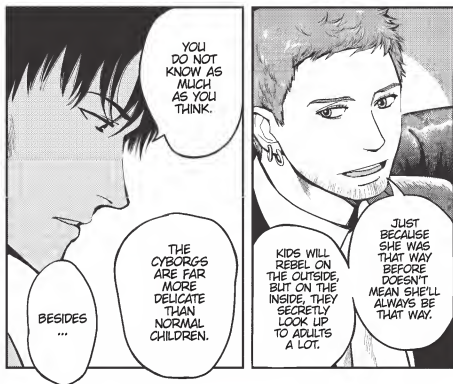
I THINK
I WILL
PASS,
THANK
YOU.

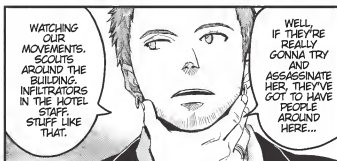
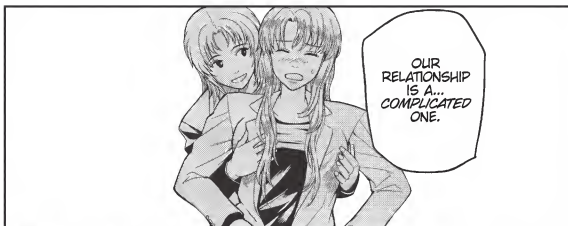


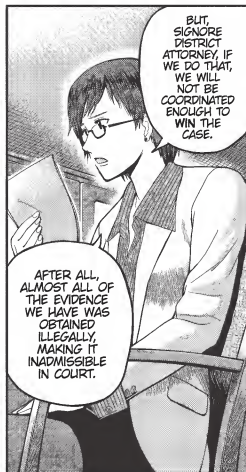
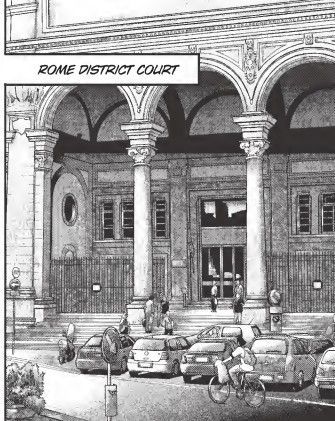
ERM,
WELL...
THAT
WILL DO
JUST FINE,
I THINK.

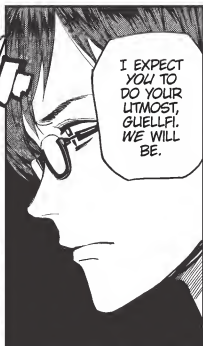
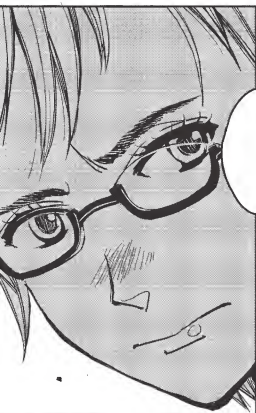


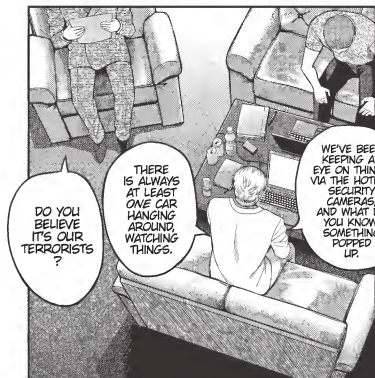
C'MON, HILSHIRE! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO COMPLIMENT THEM MORE AT TIMES LIKE THAT.











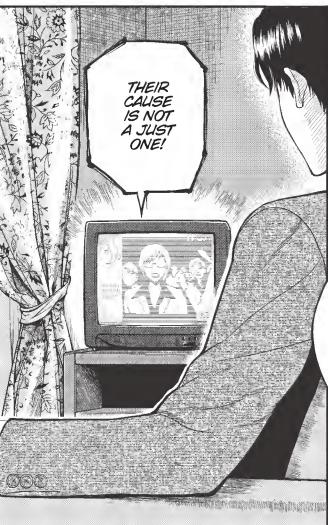
DO YOU BELIEVE IT'S OUR TERRORISTS ?

THERE IS ALWAYS AT LEAST ONE CAR HANGING AROUND, WATCHING THINGS.

WE'VE BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON THINGS VIA THE HOTEL'S SECURITY CAMERAS, AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW, SOMETHING POPPED UP.



HEY, HILSHIRE ?



THEIR CAUSE IS NOT A JUST ONE!

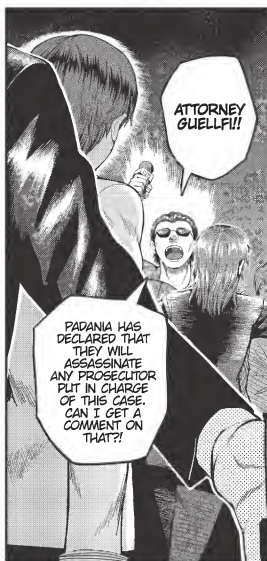


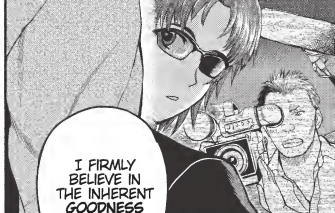
PROBABLY, THOUGH THEY AREN'T BEING SUBTLE. I BET IT'S JUST A DECOY.



THERE MUST BE OTHERS SOMEWHERE--

TRUE. I DOUBT ONE MAN IN A CAR IS THE ONLY SCOUT THEY HAVE.



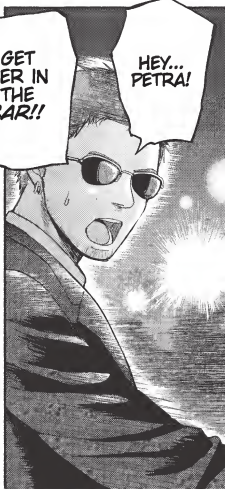


I FIRMLY
BELIEVE IN
THE INHERENT
GOODNESS
OF HUMAN
BEINGS.

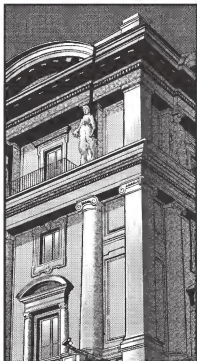
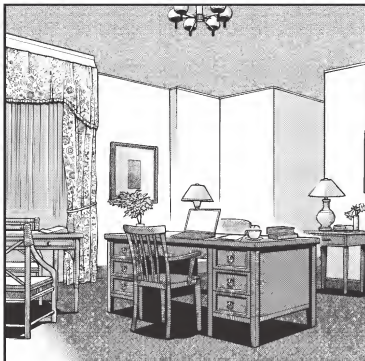


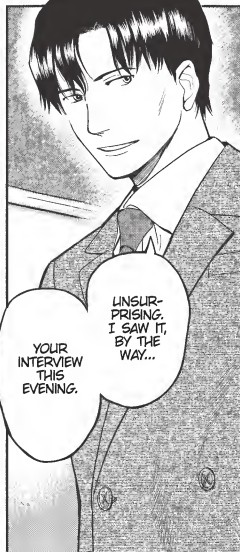
GET
HER IN
THE
CAR!!

Y-YES,
SIR!

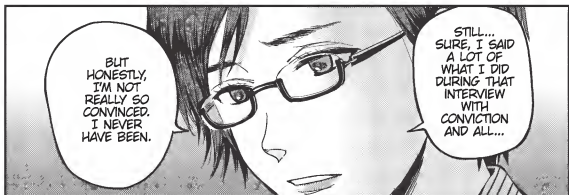
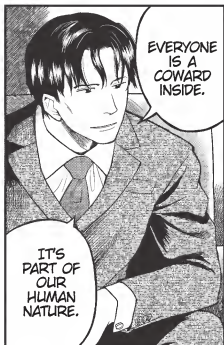


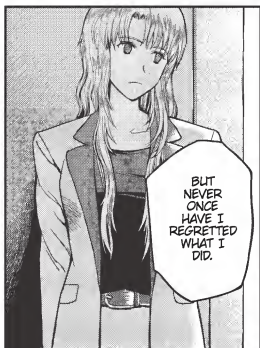
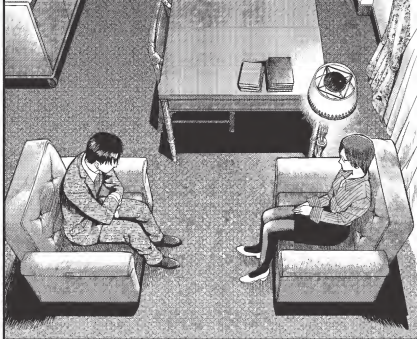
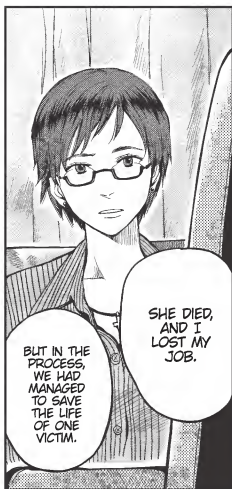
HEY...
PETRA!

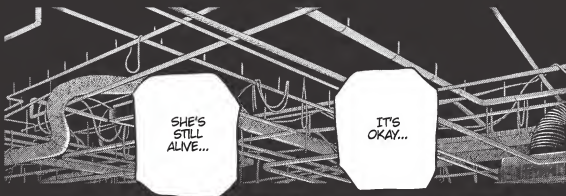












SHE'S
STILL
ALIVE...

IT'S
OKAY...



RACHELLE
!!



I'LL
SAVE
HER.

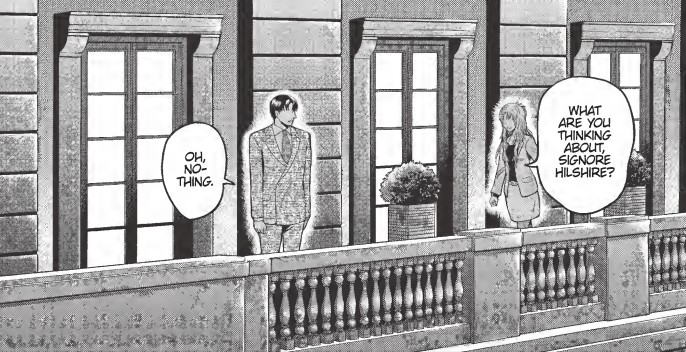


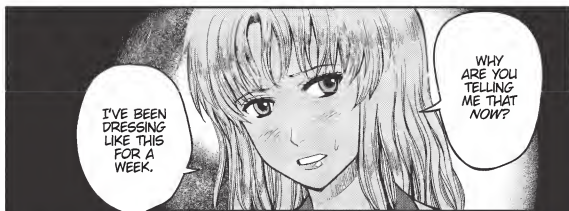
THERE'S STILL
HOPE FOR
THE WORLD!
WE... HAAH...
WE CAN'T
GIVE UP
ON IT YET!



VICTOR?!

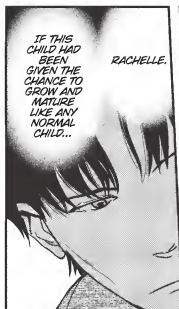
RIGHT...





I'VE BEEN
DRESSING
LIKE THIS
FOR A
WEEK.

WHY
ARE YOU
TELLING
ME THAT
NOW?



IF THIS
CHILD HAD
BEEN
GIVEN THE
CHANCE TO
GROW AND
MATURE
LIKE ANY
NORMAL
CHILD...

RACHELLE.



WHAT'S
THAT
SUPPOSED
TO
MEAN?



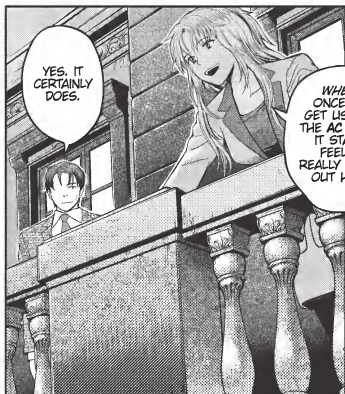
I GUESS
THIS IS WHAT
YOU WOULD
LOOK LIKE AS
AN ADULT,
WERE YOU
EVER TO
GROW UP.

AHA
HA
HA...



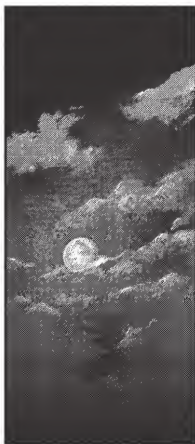
THIS IS
THE
WOMAN
SHE
WOULD
HAVE
BECOME.

I'M A
CYBORG,
REMEMBER
?



YES. IT
CERTAINLY
DOES.

WHEW!
ONCE YOU
GET USED TO
THE AC INSIDE,
IT STARTS
FEELING
REALLY MUGGY
OUT HERE.

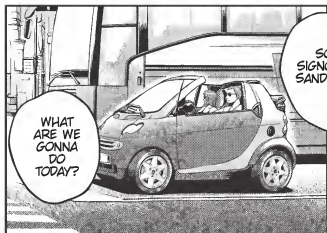


WHAT
SAY WE
HEAD
BACK
INSIDE?

WELL,
THEN...

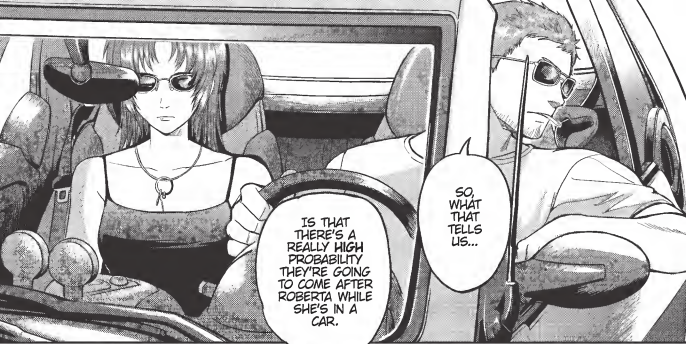


SURE!



SO,
SIGNORIO
SANDRO...





IS THAT
THERE'S A
REALLY HIGH
PROBABILITY
THEY'RE GOING
TO COME AFTER
ROBERTA WHILE
SHE'S IN A
CAR.

SO
WHAT
THAT
TELLS
US...



IF WE
WERE THE
TERRORISTS,
HOW WOULD
WE GO
ABOUT
DOIN' IT?

RIGHT.
THAT'S
WHY WE
USE
NOW TO
THINK.

BUT
THERE'S
NO WAY
WE KNOW
THAT FOR
SURE.

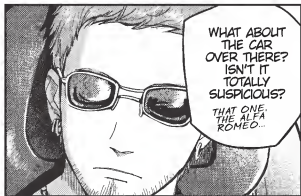


BZZZ!
SORRY,
YOU
LOSE.

THAT'S AN
UNMARKED
COP CAR.

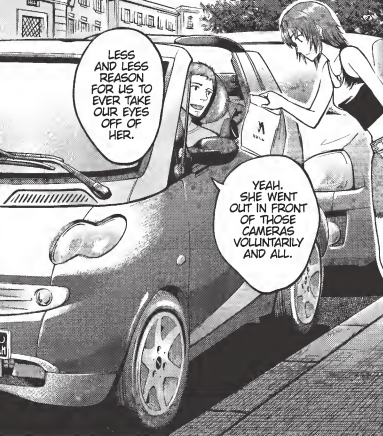


AH!



WHAT ABOUT
THE CAR
OVER THERE?
ISN'T IT
TOTALLY
SUSPICIOUS?

THAT ONE.
THE ALFA
ROMEO...

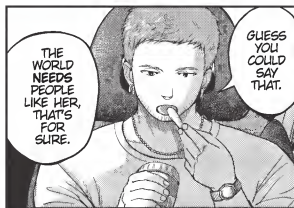


LESS
AND LESS
REASON
FOR US TO
EVER TAKE
OUR EYES
OFF OF
HER.

YEAH.
SHE WENT
OUT IN FRONT
OF THOSE
CAMERAS
VOLUNTARILY
AND ALL.



Y'KNOW,
SIGNORINA
GUELLFI
REALLY
SURPRISED
ME LAST
NIGHT.



THE
WORLD
NEEDS
PEOPLE
LIKE HER,
THAT'S
FOR
SURE.

GUESS
YOU
COULD
SAY
THAT.



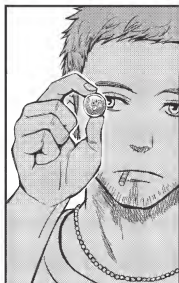
TOTALLY
UNLIKE
SOME
PEOPLE
I COULD
NAME,
SIGNORIO
SANDRO.

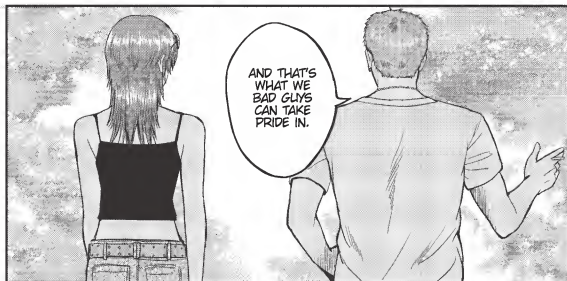
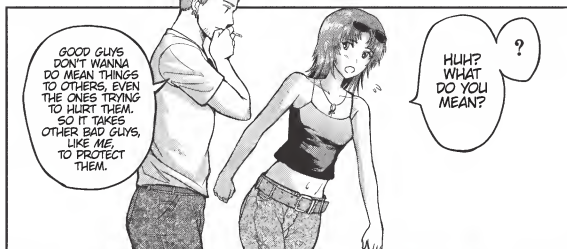
YOU BET!
IT'S PEOPLE
LIKE HER
WHO'RE
GONNA
CHANGE THE
WORLD.



YEAH,
BUT
STILL...

NOW
WE KNOW
SHE'S A
REAL
GOOD
PERSON
AT
HEART.





GUNSLINGERGIRL.





CHAPTER 37: THE BRAVE DO NOT FEAR



WHAT, THIS?
IT'S PART OF
MY PERSONAL
TRAINING
REGIMEN.
WHenever I
HAVE EVEN A FEW
SPARE MINUTES,
I TRY TO TALK
TO PEOPLE.

THIS IS
MY
RECORD
OF IT.



HEY,
SIGNORIO
SANDRO?



WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?



WHAT DO YOU WRITE THEM ALL DOWN FOR?

LAWYER...
TOUR
GUIDE...
FINE ART
RESTORATION
SPECIALIST...



STILL,
I THINK I
CAN ADD
"PROSECUTOR"
TO THE LIST.
BEEN TALKING
TO ONE A
LOT ON
THIS JOB.

BEEN
SLACKING
OFF
RECENTLY,
THOUGH.



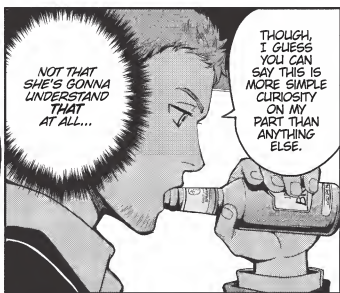
WOW.
THAT'S
SO
COOL.

.....



HAVING
EVEN A
GENERAL
KNOWLEDGE
OF A LOT OF
DIFFERENT
JOBS CAN BE
REALLY
USEFUL.

SO I CAN
PICK UP AND
READ TWO OR
THREE BOOKS
ON EACH
PROFESSION
I'VE COME
ACROSS.



NOT THAT
SHE'S GONNA
UNDERSTAND
THAT
AT ALL...

THOUGH,
I GUESS
YOU CAN
SAY THIS IS
MORE SIMPLE
CURIOSITY
ON MY
PART THAN
ANYTHING
ELSE.



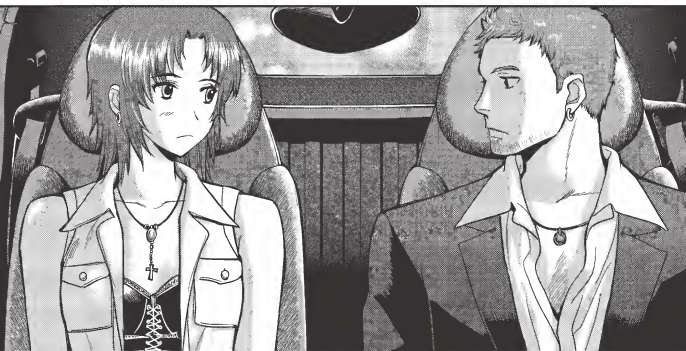
HA HA!
THANKS.

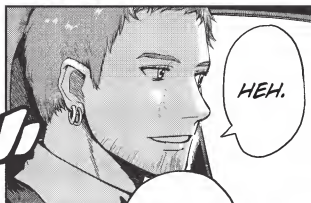


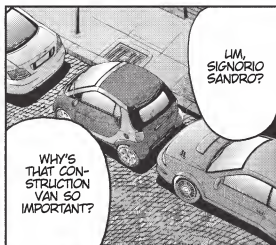
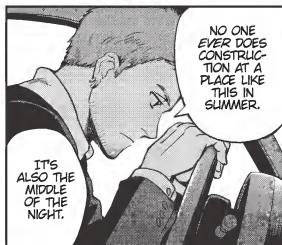
I MEAN,
EVEN IN YOUR
FREE TIME,
YOU'RE DOING
ALL THIS
EXTRA
WORK AND
TRAINING.

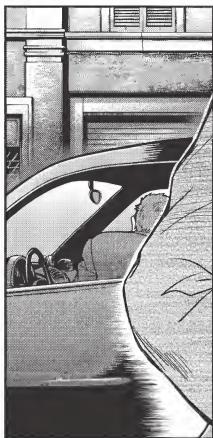
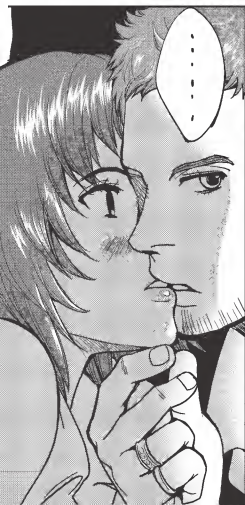


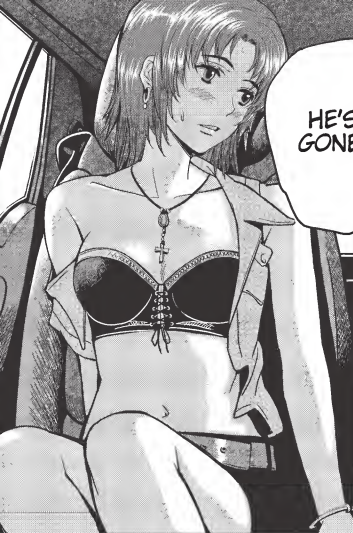
I DIDN'T
MEAN
IT AS
EMPTY
FLATTERY.



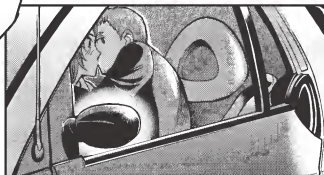








HE'S
GONE.



N-NO...
I WAS
JUST...
SURPRISED.
THAT'S
ALL...

HN.
HE WASN'T
JUST SOME
CONSTRUC-
TION GUY,
THAT'S FOR
SURE.

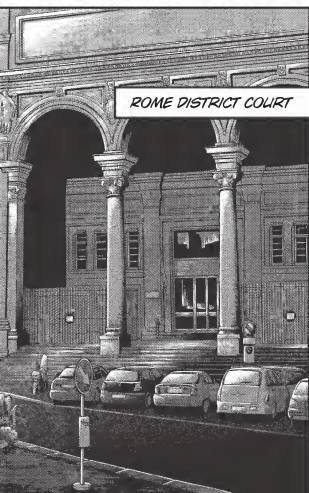


DID I
TOUCH
YOU TOO
MUCH?



WHAT'S
WRONG?

WHEEM





YES.
THANK
YOU FOR
STAYING
WITH ME
SO LATE.

I GUESS
EVEN THE
COURTS
ARE QUIET
AT THIS
HOUR OF
THE NIGHT.

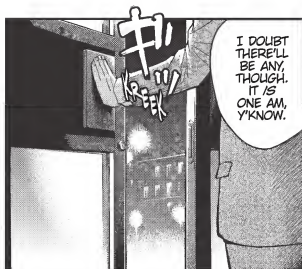
NOW,
LET US
GET YOU
BACK
TO THE
HOTEL.

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.

PLEASE
WAIT IN
THE
LOBBY.

I'LL
BRING
THE CAR
AROUND.

I HAD
INTENDED TO
MAKE IT A
QUICK VISIT,
BUT I KEPT
FINDING ONE
LAST THING TO
LOOK
INTO.



I DOUBT
THERE'LL
BE ANY,
THOUGH.
IT IS
ONE AM,
Y'KNOW.

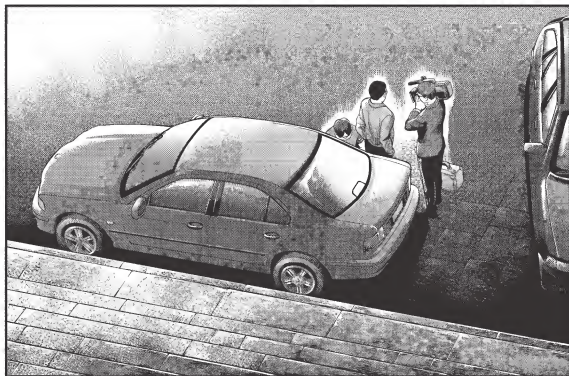


THE ONLY
PEOPLE
WHO'D BE
OUT AND
ABOUT AT
THIS HOUR
ARE L/S
AND THE
MICE...



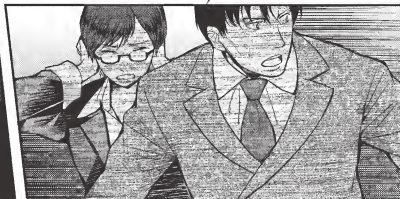
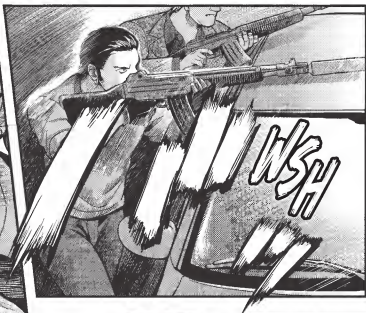
IF THERE
ARE, WE'LL
TELL 'EM
TO GET
LOST.

WHAT'RE
WE GOING
TO DO IF
THERE ARE
REPORTERS
OUT
THERE?













I'LL
COVER
YOU!

GET
HER BACK
INSIDE,
AND CALL
THE
POLICE!!



TRIELA!
ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?!



YES,
SIR!

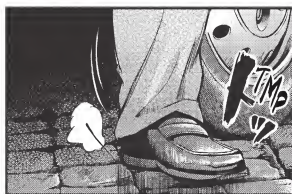


THEN I WILL
CARRY YOU.
HANG ON
TIGHTLY,
WE ARE
GOING TO
MAKE A
DASH FOR
THE DOORS!

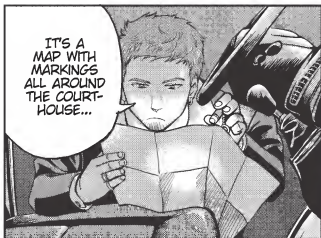


N-
NO...

CAN
YOU
WALK
?



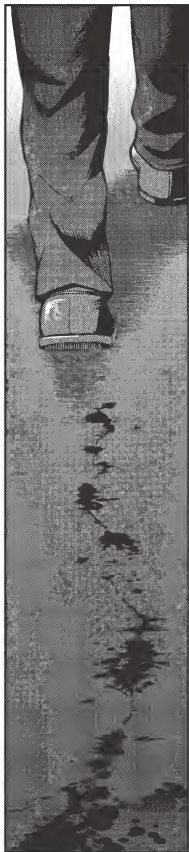
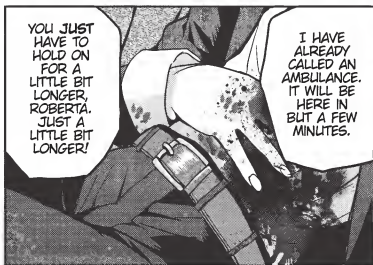
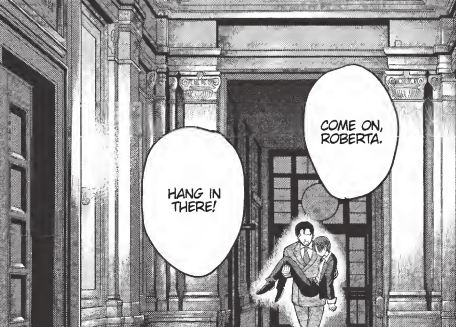


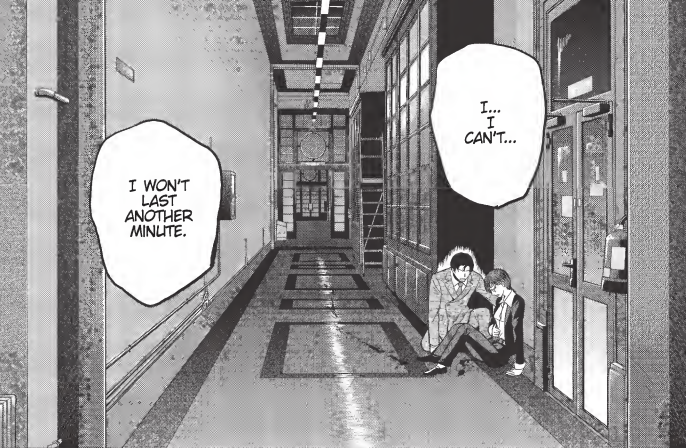












I WON'T
LAST
ANOTHER
MINUTE.

I...
I
CAN'T...

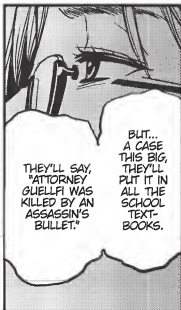


DON'T
BE
RIDICU-
LOUS!!



WHEN KIDS
READ THAT,
THEY'LL WANT
TO GROW UP
TO BE
POLICEMEN
AND
LAWYERS...

SO
THEY CAN
MAKE SURE
WRONG
THINGS LIKE
THIS DON'T
HAPPEN
AGAIN.
LIKE HOW
I WANTED
TO...



THEY'LL SAY,
"ATTORNEY
GUELLI WAS
KILLED BY AN
ASSASSIN'S
BULLET."

BUT...
A CASE
THIS BIG,
THEY'LL
PUT IT IN
ALL THE
SCHOOL
TEXT-
BOOKS.

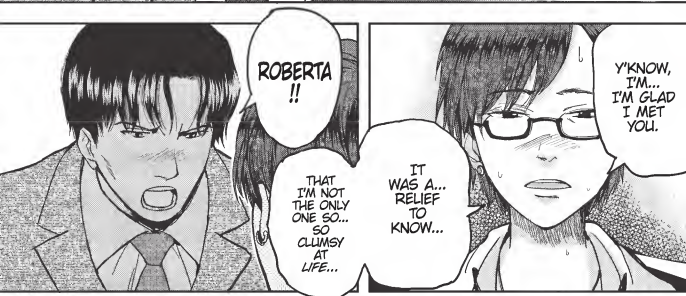


BESIDES...
IT'S
PROBABLY
BETTER IF
I DIED...

I'D BE
MORE
USEFUL
THAT
WAY...



NO!







DAMMIT !!

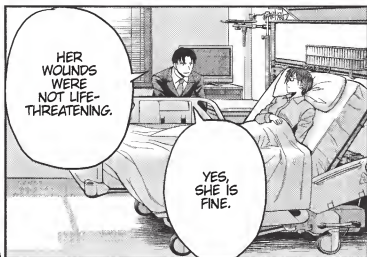
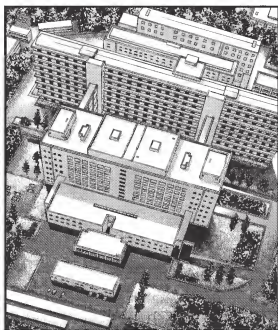


I
WON'T
!!



THIS
TIME,
I WILL
NOT
LET HER
DIE!!







AFTER
WHAT YOU
HAVE BEEN
THROUGH,
IT IS ONLY
NATURAL
TO HAVE
DOUBTS.

ONE MONTH LATER...



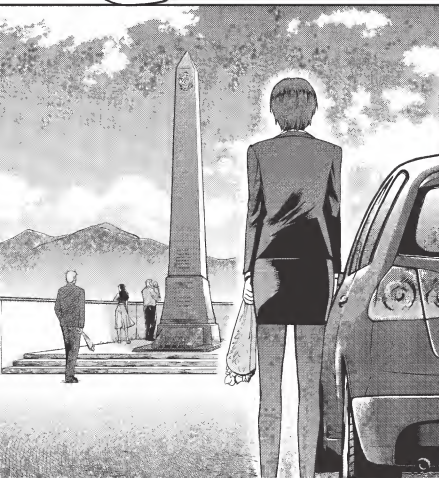
THE
ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS
DEATH IS
NEXT
MONTH.

I'LL TELL
YOU WHAT.
ONCE YOU ARE
DISCHARGED
FROM THE
HOSPITAL,
WHY NOT PAY
A VISIT TO
THE CROCE
MEMORIAL?

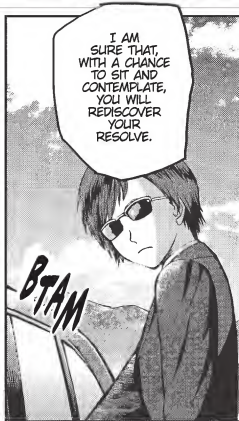
YES,
THOUGH
I AM A
LITTLE
UNCERTAIN,
STILL.

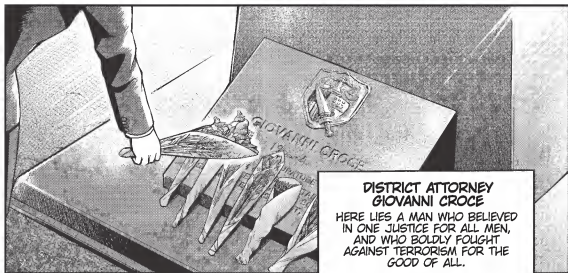


WILL I
BE ABLE TO
GO BACK TO
WORKING LIKE
I DID BEFORE,
STUBBORNLY
STRAIGHTFORWARD
FOR JUSTICE...
OR WILL FEAR
MAKE ME
FREEZE UP?

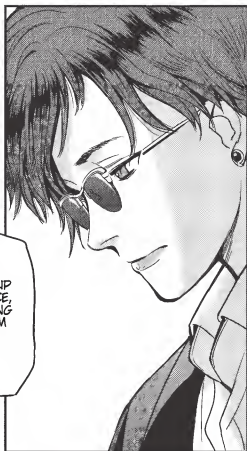


I AM
SURE THAT,
WITH A CHANCE
TO SIT AND
CONTEMPLATE,
YOU WILL
REDISCOVER
YOUR
RESOLVE.









YOU ARE STANDING UP FOR JUSTICE, AND FIGHTING TERRORISM HEAD-ON, FAIR AND SQUARE.



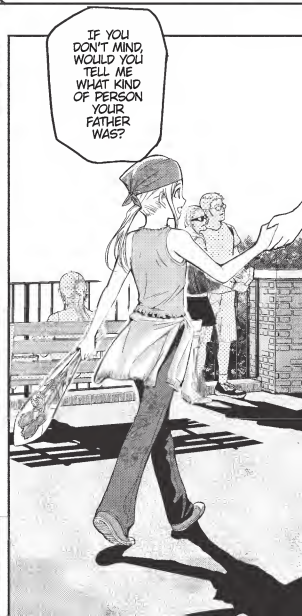


I GUESS
I DON'T
HAVE A
CHOICE BUT
TO GIVE IT
MY ALL,
HUH?

WELL,
WITH THAT
KIND OF
ENCOUR-
AGEMENT...



TO ME
AND MY
SIBLINGS,
HE WAS A
FATHER
WHO WAS
NEVER
THERE.



IF YOU
DON'T MIND,
WOULD YOU
TELL ME
WHAT KIND
OF PERSON
YOUR FATHER
WAS?

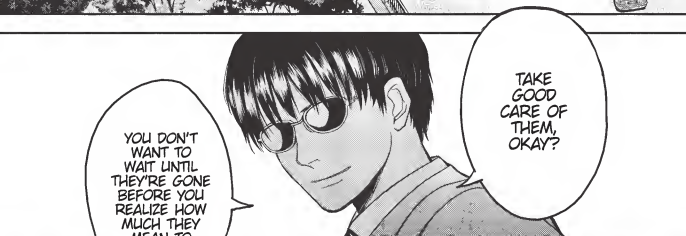


SO,
FRANKLY,
I DIDN'T
LIKE HIM
VERY
MUCH.



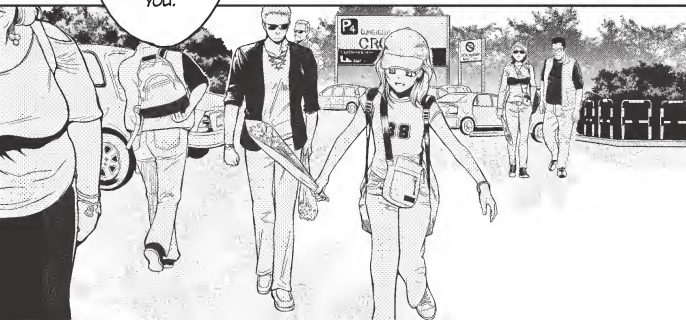
DO
YOU HAVE
FAMILY,
SIGNORINA?

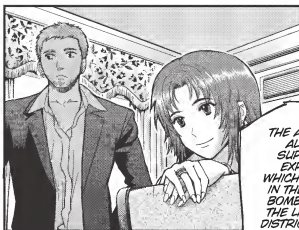
YES...
MY PARENTS
ARE LIVING
HAPPILY UP
IN SWITZERLAND.



TAKE
GOOD
CARE OF
THEM,
OKAY?

YOU DON'T
WANT TO
WAIT UNTIL
THEY'RE GONE
BEFORE YOU
REALIZE HOW
MUCH THEY
MEAN TO
YOU.



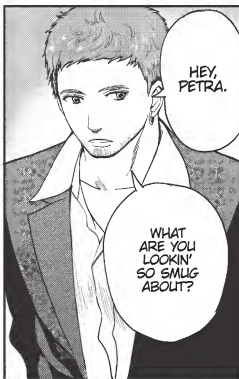
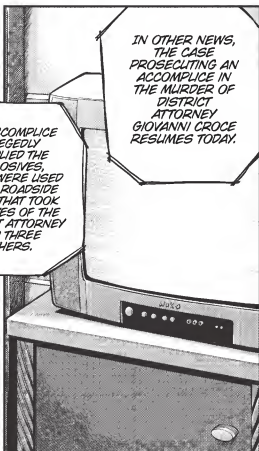


THE ACCOMPLICE
ALLEGEDLY
SUPPLIED THE
EXPLOSIVES,
WHICH WERE USED
IN THE ROADSIDE
BOMB THAT TOOK
THE LIVES OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
AND THREE
OTHERS.

IN OTHER NEWS,
THE CASE
PROSECUTING AN
ACCOMPLICE IN
THE MURDER OF
DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
GIOVANNI CROCE
RESUMES TODAY.



THE CASE WILL
BE PROSECUTED
BY ATTORNEY
ROBERTA GUELFI,
WHO HAS
GARNERED MUCH
PUBLIC ATTENTION
SINCE SURVIVING
AN ASSASSINATION
ATTEMPT MORE
THAN A MONTH
AGO.



HEY,
PETRA.

WHAT
ARE YOU
LOOKIN'
SO SMLIG
ABOUT?



ALTHOUGH SHE
WAS GRAVELY
INJURED BY A
GUNSHOT WOUND
DURING THE
ATTEMPT, SHE HAS
BRAVELY INSISTED
UPON RETURNING
TO THE
COURTROOM.



CONSIDERED
BY MANY TO BE
THE SPIRITUAL
SUCCESSOR TO
DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
CROCE HIMSELF,
HOPES FOR
ATTORNEY
GUELFI ARE
HIGH.



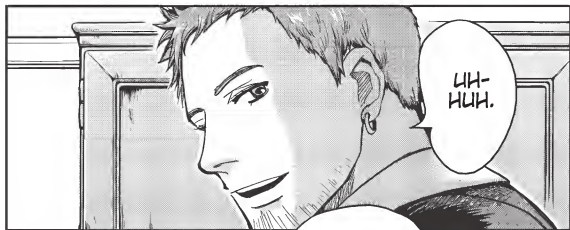
IT'S GREAT!
I FEEL
REALLY
PROUD
OF WHAT
I DID.

THIS IS THAT
"CONTRIBUTION"
THING YOU
WERE TALKING
ABOUT
BEFORE,
RIGHT?



I'M
REALLY
GLAD THAT
WE GOT
TO WORK
WITH
SIGNORINA
GUELLI.

I'M NOT
SMUG,
I'M
HAPPY!



LIH-
HUH.



YEAH,
YOU'RE A
CHEEKY
ONE ALL
RIGHT.

GUNSLINGERGIRL

AGENT 2.0

There is a secret counterterrorism unit for the Italian government known only as "The Social Welfare Agency." Its mission: to rescue troubled girls and turn them into heartless cyborg assassins using the latest advances in cyber-technology.

The newest inductee into the Agency is a second generation cyborg called Petrushka, who may be the Agency's most powerful operative yet. Petrushka is given a formidable trial-by-fire mission, together with her handler Alessandro, to foil an assassination attempt. Can she prove she's got what it takes in an impossible mission she may not even survive?

"Gunslinger Girl is a surprisingly dark but fascinating story with as much psychological drama as action. I strongly recommend it."

—MANIA.COM



OLDER TEEN (16+)

WWW.GOMANGA.COM

MANGA



Seven Seas